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LIBERTÀ
QUOTIDIANO DI PIACENZA FONDATO DA ERNESTO PRATI NEL 1883

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Altri avvistamenti dopo i casi del "sigaro" di Piacenza e dei "mandarini" di Castelsangiovanni

Ufo, segnalazioni in serie

In tre diversi punti della provincia, da est a ovest

Strane scie nel cielo, sigari che volano e sfere con la coda. È sempre più ricco il carniere degli ufologi piacentini. Dopo il caso del "sigaro", di cui già abbiamo riferito, i responsabili del Cun (il Centro ufologico nazionale) hanno ricevuto altre segnalazioni da tre diversi punti della Provincia: da est (Vigoleno) a ovest (Vicobarone) passando per Borgotrebbia.
Un avvistamento risale proprio a sabato 23 gennaio, lo stesso giorno in cui l'impiegato piacentino che pregava al cimitero aveva notato un oggetto a forma di tubo attraversare in diagonale Piacenza da nord-ovest a sud-est. Sempre a quell'ora (le 15) un altro piacentino, che percorreva la strada che da Vigoleno porta a Salsomaggiore, sostiene di aver visto in cielo - alla sua sinistra, di fianco ad una collina - una strana scia bianca. Era una bella giornata tersa. «La scia - ha riferito - appariva da terra lunga una decina di centimetri. Procedeva lentamente in orizzontale. Poi ha cambiato direzione assumendo un andamento discontinuo con movimenti alternati (in su, in giù e in orizzontale) compiuti parecchie volte e sempre lentamente. Ogni tanto si fermava per poi ripartire».
Un fenomeno che l'uomo ha potuto esaminare con calma per qualche minuto. Poi ha proseguito sulla strada provinciale fino a casa sua, poco lontano da lì. Ma al suo arrivo, l'oggetto non c'era più. E se fosse stata la scia di un aereo? Il testimone è convinto di no perché quella che ha visto, sostiene, era più corta e meno grossa. In più non si dissolveva col tempo e non aveva davanti velivoli. Inoltre volava a bassa quota. Pur dichiarandosi scettico sugli Ufo, l'uomo ha detto di considerare quanto aveva visto un fenomeno «non convenzionale».
Un secondo avvistamento risale al pomeriggio del giorno dopo, domenica 24 gennaio, verso le 16. Una coppia di Fontana Pradosa di Castelsangiovanni ha riferito che stava percorrendo in auto la strada provinciale che da Vicobarone porta a Santa Maria della Versa quando la moglie ha richiamato l'attenzione del marito verso il cielo. Hanno riferito poi di «due sfere biancastre con intorno un alone».
Secondo il racconto dei coniugi, esse avevano entrambe una coda che partiva dalla sfera con una certa grandezza per terminare sottilissima. Stavano immobili una di fronte all'altra. Anche la coda era biancastra e terminava sottilissima (non come la coda delle comete, che alla fine è sfumata). Le due sfere avevano una dimensione di alcuni centimetri. L'avvistamento - dicono marito e moglie - è durato oltre cinque minuti. Poco più avanti, dopo aver attraversato una radura di alberi che copriva la visuale i due oggetti erano spariti. Il cielo quel pomeriggio era limpidissimo.
Il terzo caso è avvenuto a Borgotrebbia. Ore 7,30 di lunedì 1 febbraio. Una signora, sposata, guardando fuori dalla finestra della sua camera da letto, ha detto di aver visto nel cielo (già limpido e chiaro a quell'ora) sopra ad un gruppo di case una sfera biancastra, luminosa e molto veloce. Direzione: da sinistra verso destra. Le dimensioni? Più grandi di un pallone da calcio. Al suo interno la signora dice di aver scorto vari colori tra cui il verde e il rosso. L'oggetto non lasciava scie dietro di sé e

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procedeva ad una altezza abbastanza bassa. La sua traiettoria prima era rettilinea. Poi, mentre si abbassava, è scomparso improvvisamente alla vista.
I componenti della sezione piacentina del Cun - Giuseppe Piccoli, Ettore Maini e Andrea Da Crema - ricordano altri episodi a cui avevamo già accennato: nei giorni precedenti all'avvistamento del sigaro volante sulla città avevano ricevuto altre tre segnalazioni, tutte nella zona di Castelsangiovanni, riguardanti le sere del 7, 9 e 14 gennaio: una palla luminosa delle dimensioni di un mandarino avrebbe fatto strani zig zag nel cielo. Tutte le testimonianze raccolte sono state inviate al responsabile nazionale, Alfredo Lissoni. Saranno confrontate con gli altri numerosi casi registrati in questi giorni in tutto il Nord Italia. I tre appassionati piacentini invitano chi fosse a conoscenza di altri avvistamenti, di contattarli sia tramite Internet (e-mail: beppe.ufo@iol.it) sia per telefono, chiamando i numeri 338133 e 881992.
Giacomo Nicelli

PANORAMA 8-11-07

Il socio di Bill Gates finanzia gli extraterrestri

SPAZIO Grazie a Paul Allen, il telescopio Ata cercherà segnali alieni.

È dagli anni 60 che vari gruppi di ricercatori tentano di captare eventuali voci intelligenti che arrivano dallo spazio, ma senza risultati. Un insuccesso dovuto alla bassa probabilità che extraterrestri stiano inviando segnali alla Terra, ma anche alla mancanza di mezzi adeguati. Ora la caccia agli alieni ha un sostenitore in più: Paul Allen, socio storico di Bill Gates, che insieme a Nathan Myhrvold, altro dirigente della Microsoft, ha messo a disposizione 10,5 milioni di euro per un radiotelescopio il cui unico compito sarà ascoltare, sempre che arrivino, segnali extraterrestri.

ULTRAPOTENTE *Il radiotelescopio ha 350 antenne larghe sei metri.*

Il radiotelescopio Ata (la sigla sta per Allen telescope array), costruito ad Hat Creek, nel nord della California, da pochi giorni ha iniziato a scrutare la prima porzione di cielo. Le sue 350 antenne, ognuna con un diametro di circa 6 metri, lavorano in parallelo: il risultato, come potenza finale, è simile a quello di un'unica antenna larga 100 metri.

L'Ata verrà gestito dal Seti Institute (Search for extraterrestrial intelligence) e dal Radio astronomy lab dell'Università della California a Berkeley. Le antenne ascolteranno il cielo tutte le 24 ore su una frequenza compresa tra 500 e 11 mila megahertz.

Questo intervallo contiene la frequenza da 1.420 megahertz, quella dell'idrogeno neutro: una specie di modulazione che produce l'elemento più abbondante nell'universo. Secondo la maggior parte degli scienziati, dal momento che questa frequenza dovrebbe essere nota a una civiltà con uno sviluppo analogo al nostro, sarebbe spontaneo utilizzarla in un messaggio inviato nello spazio.

Al momento sono state accese le prime 42 antenne, ma nell'arco di pochi mesi entreranno in funzione tutte le altre. *(Luigi Bignami)*

LIBERTA' 24/9/97

Anche gli ufologi indagano sul boato in Val di Taro

Egregio direttore,
volevo rivolgermi agli aspiranti avvistatori di Ufo che da un po' di tempo non scrivono più sulla sua rubrica.

Visto che avete una certa confidenza con gli Ufo vi consiglierei di trasferirvi con tenda e sacco a pelo sull'Appennino tosco - emiliano, nella vallata tra Borgo Val di Taro e Pontremoli.

E' proprio lì, infatti, che ultimamente si è verificato uno scoppio alquanto misterioso: un pilota di Ufo che ha alzato troppo il gomito?

Lascio a voi, esperti del ramo, l'ardua sentenza. Aspetto con trepidazione una vostra analisi del fatto accaduto e spero che "Libertà" intanto faccia maggior chiarezza su quanto avvenne quella notte.

Lettera firmata

❖ *Caro amico,*
verissimo, quella notte è accaduto un fatto che, inspiegabilmente, è passato quasi sotto silenzio, mentre avrebbe meritato una maggiore attenzione da parte dei giornali. Alle 18,29 del 10 settembre scorso un enorme boato era stato avvertito in tre vallate dell'alto Appennino parmense, da Calestano (Val Baganza) a Berceto (Val Taro) fino al Monte Barigazzo (Val Ceno). Lei, ironicamente, invita gli ufologi che si erano occupati di alcuni avvistamenti segnalati dagli abitanti di Vigolzone, a trasferirsi con tenda e sacco nella zona in cui era stata sentita, quella sera, quella fragorosa deflagrazione. È proprio quello che gli ufologi hanno già fatto. Pertanto pubblico qui di seguito il 'rapporto' mandatoci dal direttore del Centro ufologico nazionale di Parma, Giorgio Pattera, che aveva raggiunto la Val di Taro poche ore dopo il misterioso 'botto'.

«Questa volta non si è trattato di uno di quei 'botti' (negli ultimi tempi, in verità, più frequenti) che non lasciano traccia, se non quella di far sussultare le persone e farle imprecare coloritamente contro l'Aviazione e gli aerei supersonici. Infatti, oltre alle 'solite' chiamate da parte di anziani allarmati e di semplici curiosi, centinaia (letteralmente) di telefonate sono giunte ai Carabinieri di Pontremoli (versante lunigianese) e di Borgotaro (versante parmense) attraverso i cellulari di automobilisti che stavano percorrendo il tratto autostradale dell'A-15 tra la galleria di Corchia e quella del Valico della Cisa: tutti concordavano nell'affermare di aver osservato "...lingue di fuoco, in cielo, dirigersi verso le pendici del Monte Molinatico (m. 1550), seguite da un assordante boato...". Altri testimoni oculari, tra i valligiani, sono sicuri (e lo sostengono rifiutando l'anonimato) di aver visto "...cadere un 'oggetto', che lasciava dietro di sé una scia bianca e rossa; successivamente si è udita una potente deflagrazione...".

Per questo motivo è scattata immediatamente, con base a Berceto e coordinata dal Sar (Search And Rescue) di Monte Venda (Padova), una gigantesca 'caccia all'aereo precipitato', con un dispiegamento di mezzi e di uomini così imponente, da costituire quella che poi, all'insaputa dei partecipanti, si doveva trasformare nella più grande 'esercitazione' di protezione civile del Parmense, o almeno così dicono le fonti preposte...

Perché, in realtà, di dubbi e riserve ne rimangono a iosa, anche adesso (h. 14,30 di giovedì 11/9) che le ricerche sono state 'ufficialmente' sospese; ed allora cominciano gli interrogativi...

Se è vero che la stazione di rilevamento-radar di Poggio Ballone (una di quelle coinvolte nel 'caso Ustica' - n.d.r.) e il 1° Roc (Regional Operation Command, di Abano Terme) "...non avevano notizia di alcun aereo, né civile né militare né da turismo, non giunto a destinazione; di alcun Sos lanciato da qualche velivolo in difficoltà; di alcun traffico aereo, militare o civile, segnalato dai radar nella zona a quell'ora...", non si comprende il motivo di tanta solerzia, davvero inusitata (casi precedenti, purtroppo, insegnano), nel far afferire in loco in meno di mezz'ora:

- quattro elicotteri (VV.FF. di Genova; un Ab 212 da Grosseto, specializzato nella ricognizione notturna; due dal Sar di Padova);
- i Carabinieri della Stazione di Borgotaro, con Land Rover in dotazione;
- un veicolo speciale attrezzato per il soccorso in zone impervie, denominato 'Alfa 50', che viene mobilitato "...solo quando capita qualcosa di molto grave...", dicono gli addetti;
- mobilitazione della prefettura (con apertura a Parma di 'unità di crisi'), Guardia Forestale, Guardia di Finanza e Unità Cinofile, per un totale di oltre 200 uomini.

Anche senza voler 'imboccare' ad ogni costo l'ipotesi dell'Ufo, che tuttavia per stessa ammissione dei giornali, sempre alquanto scettici su questo tasto, resta ormai l'unica valida, tutto questo solerte e massiccio apparato di ricerca non può non far riflettere la gente: se in effetti le Autorità non disponevano di fondate informazioni circa le possibili cause del 'boato', a parte le innumerevoli telefonate e le testimonianze da terra (che di norma vengono tenute in scarsa considerazione), era proprio necessario mobilitare questa gigantesca 'caccia al nulla', in assenza di dati oggettivi, quali lo sprigionarsi di incendi boschivi e la segnalazione del sollevarsi in cielo di volute di fumo, che si evidenziano subito sia in caso di caduta di velivoli che di meteoriti? Prendendo in prestito una frase dalla politica, c'è da chiedersi veramente chi pagherà questa operazione, nell'attuale clima di 'caccia al risparmio'...

Ad onor del vero, da fonte attendibile che esige l'anonimato abbiamo appreso che la mattina del 12 settembre un elicottero, la cui identità dobbiamo tenere segreta, avrebbe avvistato del fumo sulle pendici di un monte, non meglio specificato. Inoltre va segnalato che il Comandante la Stazione CC. di B. Taro, pur dichiarandoci di non aver rinvenuto tracce di alcun tipo, lamentava con una punta di amarezza di "esser stato 'cortesemente' messo da parte" all'arrivo dei Militari, forse per agevolare un'eventuale operazione di 'bonifica' che si fosse resa necessaria nel corso delle operazioni. In effetti, nel corso dei sopralluoghi immediatamente effettuati in zona dalla sede Cun di Parma (Pattera, Zurli e Sessa), lo scrivente ha potuto rilevare, non senza una certa sorpresa, le tracce lasciate presumibilmente da un mezzo cingolato di piccole dimensioni (le 'strisciate' del metallo dei cingoli sui lastroni di arenaria della mulattiera), difficilmente attribuibili ad un trattore, in quanto, tra i faggi di una foresta a 1350 m.sl/m, non si vede a quale scopo si sarebbe dovuto inerpicare. Per concludere, va doverosamente rilevato il fatto che proprio la mattina del 'boato', alle h. 7,09, un movimento tellurico di intensità 2.9 Richter (=3° Mercalli) è stato registrato, senza danni, nella stessa zona (con epicentro tra Varano Melegari, Solignano, Berceto e Calestano) ed avvertito dalla popolazione nei piani alti degli edifici: mistero più, mistero meno, la gente crede che il 'boato' sia in qualche modo legato al presunto 'crash' di un velivolo».

"LIBERTA'" Sabato 7-6-1997

I marziani a Vigolzone?

Egregio direttore,
dà diverse settimane nel cielo di Vigolzone stanno verificandosi delle stranezze. Per avere conferma che questi fenomeni non fossero scherzi della mia vista, ho chiesto ai miei vicini di guardare anche loro, cosa che hanno fatto confermando di avere visto quello che vedo io, senza poterci dare delle spiegazioni logiche di cosa avevamo visto. Pertanto mi rivolgo a Lei cercando, se è possibile, aiuto per avere una spiegazione su questi fenomeni.

Tutte le sere con il cielo sereno si possono vedere gli stessi episodi. Augurandomi che la sua curiosità sia pari alla mia, resto in attesa di una sua risposta ringraziandola anticipatamente.

Mara Lucci

Abbiamo telefonato alla signora Lucci, che ci ha fornito ulteriori particolari. Si tratta di una fonte luminosa in grado di spostarsi velocemente: una sera compare sopra al villone nella zona del maneggio, mentre la sera dopo rispunta dalla parte opposta. Emana bagliori blu, rossi e gialli e cambia forma rapidamente: tonda, quadrata rettangolare.

La signora Lucci ha avvicinato il pilota di un Tornado che le ha detto di non aver mai notato nulla di strano sul radar. I suoi vicini, d'altro canto, confermano di avere visto nel cielo sopra Vigolzone questi inquietanti lampi. Si tratta di un satellite, di un pallone sonda, di un qualche effetto ottico dovuto ad una tempesta elettromagnetica? Non siamo in grado di dirlo. Diamo comunque la notizia, sperando che qualche "esperto" possa tranquillizzare le persone che da molte sere, quando il cielo è terso, segnalano il misterioso fenomeno. A Vigolzone arriveranno sicuramente alcuni dei molti ufologi che affollano l'Italia. Scommetto che, nei pressi di Vigolzone o in qualche altra località del Piacentino, troveranno le tracce dell'atterraggio di una nave spaziale e che a Libertà arriveranno le foto di qualche extraterrestre.

GLI UFOLOGI A VIGOLZONE

Egregio direttore,
in riferimento alla "Lettera al direttore" della signora Mara Lucci, apparsa nella rubrica "Libertà di parola" del 7 giugno u.s., ci pregiamo informarLa che la sede di Parma del Cun (Centro ufologico nazionale, con sede in Roma), è venuta a conoscenza, tramite testimonianze indipendenti da quella della signora sopracitata, che effettivamente nella zona di Vigolzone sono state osservate di recente inconsuete ed inspiegabili luminosità notturne. Prima di sbilanciarsi con enfatiche interpretazioni "marziane", due inquirenti del settore tecnico - scientifico del Cun di Parma, come impone il "modus operandi" dell'Associazione, hanno effettuato lunedì 9 u.s. un sopralluogo preliminare nella zona interessata dall'insolito fenomeno, raccogliendo alcuni resoconti attendibili (coperti per ora da esigenze di anonimato) a conferma dell'autenticità dei fatti.

Quanto finora emerso ha indotto il Cun di Parma ad avviare ulteriori indagini in loco, che saranno completate entro la fine del corrente mese.

Riservandoci, qualora Lei ne sia interessata, di comunicarLe quanto prima l'esito delle ricerche, cogliamo l'occasione per ricordare ai lettori del Suo quotidiano che nei prossimi giorni il Cun di Parma sarà ospite degli studi di "Telelibertà" per la registrazione di un programma inerente lo studio scientifico degli oggetti volanti non identificati, nel corso del quale sarà ovviamente trattato anche il recente episodio di Vigolzone.

Dottor Giorgio Pattera
ricercatore in esobiologia
responsabile del Cun di Parma

Misteriosa scia di luce verde nei cieli di Firenze

FIRENZE — Una misteriosa scia di luce di color verde e di forte intensità è stata avvistata nei cieli sopra Firenze tra le 1.50 e le 2.00 della notte scorsa. La prima segnalazione è arrivata alla sala radio della questura da una volante in servizio presso l'anfiteatro delle Cascine. La comunicazione dei due agenti parlava di una luce verde smeraldo di particolare intensità che filtrava attraverso le nubi, proveniente da un oggetto in rapido movimento. Nel frattempo al "113" erano già arrivate due telefonate di automobilisti che si erano trovati a testimoniare lo stesso fenomeno nella zona di Pontassieve (Firenze), e un terzo, di una pattuglia della Polstrada della sottosezione Firenze-nord, che alle 2.00 si trovava nel tratto dell'Autosole tra Signa e Incisa Valdarno.

"LIBERTA'" Mercoledì I8-6-199

"LIBERTA' "I8-6-1997

"LIBERTA'" Domenica 6 luglio I99

Ma quelle strane luci non sono stelle

Egregio direttore,
le scrivo in merito ad episodi che non costituiscono più una novità, ma che hanno colpito profondamente chi ha potuto assistere a tali strani fenomeni.

Mi riferisco gli avvistamenti di questi ultimi tempi, riguardanti strane luci nel cielo di Vigolzone.

Ho seguito con curiosità, ma con un pizzico di setticismo, tutta la vicenda. Tale scetticismo, è però scemato in seguito a fatti che hanno colpito direttamente me e la mia famiglia. Viviamo a Vigolzone, e mai prima d'ora ci era capitato di vedere nulla di simile, anche se spesso (nelle stellate sere di agosto) ci è capitato di trovarci a naso in sù per vederre le stelle cadenti.

Alle 1.10 di sabato 28 giugno, mia madre (che non è dedita all'alcool) è uscita di casa per ritirare la biancheria che si sarebbe bagnata durante la notte, vista la minacciosità del tempo.

Il suo sguardo, è stato catturato da una strana luce di forma circolare, del diametro di circa 30 cm, che si muoveva a scatti, in diagonale, perpendicolare al tetto.

Si è allontanato gradualmente, scomparendo dietro le nuvole. Nessuno di noi era troppo convinto di questo racconto, e abbiamo preso in giro per tutto il giorno successivo mia madre. Il giorno stesso, mi sono dovuta ricredere, anche se ancora adesso non riesco a spiegarmi lo strano fenomeno come Ufo. Io e il mio ragazzo, ci trovavamo a Piacenza, nei pressi dello stadio. Camminando a testa in sù guardavamo in cielo questa o quella stella ridendo e scherzando sull'accaduto della sera precedente. Commentavamo il fatto che lo scintillio di una stella, possa sembrare qualcosa in movimento.

Ad un certo punto, all'orizzonte, è comparo qualcosa di strano. Si alzava in basso, e saliva pian piano, tanto che abbiamo potuto vederlo molto bene. Era di forma circolare, uniforme, non lampeggiante, e si muoveva in modo strano, non seguendo una rotta precisa. In lontananza aveva le dimensioni di un pallone da calcio. È salito tra le nuvole, ma di tanto in tanto, spuntava dalla nuvole quasi stesse giocando.

Sbalorditi, abbiamo cercato di capire cosa fosse. Non era di certo un'aereo, nè il faro della discoteca Avila. Niente di tutto ciò si muove in quel modo. Aveva una forma molto ben definita e molto luminosa. Non so spiegare quello che ho visto, ma mi consola il fatto di non essere l'unica ad aver visto qualcosa. Mi sono permessa questo sfogo, visto che raccontarlo crea solo reazioni divertite.

Vorrei solo suggerire un maggiore approfondimento da parte del Cun di Parma, che secondo me, ha trattato in modo troppo sbrigativo la faccenda. Suggerirei un periodo piuttosto lungo di osservazione nei nostri cieli. Di sicuo salterebbe fuori qualcosa di molto interessante (che non è di certo Antares, a meno che non abbia le gambe...).

a.e.

Cara signora, la rimando alla lettera del comandante l'astronave marziana che ho pubblicato in prima pagina. A sentir lui, lei ha pienamente ragione.

"LETTERA DAL CIELO"
Terrestre direttore,
di passaggio nei

Antares. Succede. Alcuni abitanti di Vigolzone

LIBERTA'
6 Luglio 1997

cieli di Vigolzone, abbiamo appreso, leggendo Libertà con il nostro sistema a raggi infrarosso-verdi Estrizulyon Alfagamma OS, che la vostra sonda Pathfinder ha raggiunto, dopo lunghe peripezie (da noi seguite, a debita distanza, non senza un certo divertimento) il pianeta da cui proveniamo: Marte. Non siamo stati in grado di apprendere la notizia direttamente dalla base Marte 4 poiché la vostra ormai celebre navicella a forma di strudel protetta da giganteschi air-bags ha centrato in pieno la nostra maggiore centrale di controllo dei sistemi di comunicazione, distruggendola.

Non solo. Dopo essere rotolata per alcune centinaia di metri si è aperta a petalo. Il guaio è che ciascun petalo, pesante oltre quaranta tonnellate, schiantandosi sulla superficie del nostro pianeta ha provocato danni incalcolabili nel sottosuolo, dove la popolazione vive all'interno di fragili strutture di Termodium.

Inoltre è stata sfiorata una strage: quella specie di carro armato uscito dalla pancia della vostra sonda, infatti, ha rischiato di travolgere una comitiva di turisti appena giunti da Saturno. Se questo è stato l'inizio del vostro sbarco su Marte, che francamente prevedevamo potesse verificarsi non prima del vostro anno 2670, possiamo immaginare cosa potrà accadere nei prossimi giorni e nei prossimi anni.

Saputo che la vostra missione si era felicemente compiuta (felicemente per voi) eravamo stati tentati di atterrare nel Piacentino. Abbiamo già visitato negli scorsi secoli la basilica di Sant'Ambrogio a Milano, il Colosseo a Roma, la valle dei Templi in Sicilia.

L'ultima volta eravamo atterrati in una località che voi chiamate Circo Massimo, e dove credete che i romani gareggiassero con le bighe. In realtà quell'anello è l'orma lasciata dalla nostra astronave, che all'epoca era lunga e stretta. A parte questo, mancavamo dall'Italia da un pezzo e ci sarebbe piaciuto fare un salto in Valnure.

E' un po' che sorvolavamo la zona, e sappiamo che il Centro Ufologico Nazionale di Parma, su segnalazione dei vostri lettori, ci ha erroneamente scambiati per la stella Sopra le cui abitazioni abbiamo giocherellato emanando i soliti bagliori, hanno pensato ai fasci di luce di una discoteca e ai raid notturni dei caccia di stanza alla vicina base militare di San Damiano. Ma non è per questo motivo che abbiamo deciso di rinunciare alla visita della vostra splendida provincia.

La vera ragione è che, leggendo il vostro giornale, abbiamo capito che questo non è il momento migliore per stabilire un contatto ravvicinato. Innanzitutto ci pare che siate molto confusi. Gli inquisiti chiedono l'arresto dei giudici, e i giudici, a quanto pare, offrono soldi ai pentiti disposti a sputtanare i politici. Su Marte non esiste violenza. Voi invece fate il tiro a segno non al Poligono, ma nelle Università e sui cavalcavia. Negli asili incatenate i bambini, li seviziate e li filmate nudi, e a volte li «fabbricate» solo per venderli al migliore offerente.

Voi, giustamente, caccerete i mariti violenti da casa, ma continuerete a lasciare circolare liberamente gli stupratori. Noi paghiamo le tasse, voi probabilmente ni, visto che l'ultimo deterrente in ordine cronologico è il «riccometro» con cui vi illudete di individuare i falsi poveri, e come pensate di fare quando avete trovato solo il dieci per cento dei vostri falsi invalidi? Noi abbiamo rispetto per i terrestri, tanto è vero che evitiamo di importunarli. Voi non mancate di manifestarci diffidenza e ostilità e ci tirate in ballo sempre a sproposito, come ha fatto uno dei «compagni di merende» di Pacciani che per crearsi un alibi si è inventato il solito sequestro ad opera dei marziani. Ne abbiamo presi a bordo di esseri umani, è vero. Ma per il bene dell'umanità evitiamo di riconsegnarli alle loro famiglie.

Ecco perché non ritorniamo, almeno per ora, sulla Terra.

Ora che avete piantato su Marte la vostra bandiera, stiamo meditando, pur di non incontrarvi, di traslocare tutti verso qualche altra stella.

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★ *Saggia decisione, capitano.*

Nella notte le ricerche. E' caduto un aereo?

Scia di fumo e un boato sui monti di Borgotaro

Ricerche coordinate dal centro di cordinamento aereo militare di Monte Venda (Padova) sono in corso da ieri sera in una zona dell'alto Appennino toscoemiliano, tra Borgo Val di Taro (Parma) e Pontremoli (Massa Carrara), dove numerosi abitanti della zona hanno riferito di aver sentito un forte scoppio; qualcuno avrebbe anche visto qualcosa cadere dal cielo. Secondo quanto ha riferito ai giornalisti il centro di Monte Venda, all' appello non risultano mancanti velivoli militari, e lo stesso risultato hanno dato anche i primi riscontri compiuti con i responsabili del traffico aereo civile. Il primo allarme - a quanto si è appreso - è stato lanciato dai carabinieri di Pontremoli, che hanno ricevuto una segnalazione dall'aeroporto di Luni-Sarzana.

Alle ricerche via terra partecipano, oltre ai carabinieri, vigili del fuoco e personale del Soccorso alpino, coadiuvati da tre elicotteri: uno dell' Aeronautica militare di Grosseto, uno dei vigili del fuoco di Genova e il terzo dirottato da Sarzana mentre era impegnato in un servizio antincendio. La zona battuta in particolare è quella di Monte Molinatico, sul crinale tra le due regioni. Alla pizzeria «Giulianotti» di Valdena, una frazione di Borgo Taro, gli avventori, contattati telefonicamente, hanno detto ai giornalisti di aver sentito chiaramente lo scoppio.

Il responsabile del Soccorso alpino dell'Emilia Romagna, Francesco Dalla Porta, che si mantiene in continuo collegamento con il centro di coordinamento di Monte Venda, ha detto che secondo parecchie testimonianze, tutte coincidenti, tra le 18.30 e le 19 è stata vista una scia di fumo in cielo, seguita da un boato contro la montagna.

Gazzetta PR Mercoledì 7 luglio 2004

Nuove analisi a Panocchia

Cerchi nel grano, la chimica conferma la tesi dello scherzo

Gli scompensi nella quantità di alcuni elementi chimici, come fluorite e calcite, nel terreno dei cerchi nel grano di Panocchia sono una conseguenza dell'utilizzo di normali diserbanti e prodotti per l'agricoltura. Le abbondanti piogge primaverili e la presenza di ghiaia nel campo hanno fatto il resto. Sono questi i risultati delle ultime analisi di Giorgio Pattera, biologo e vicepresidente del «Galileo», sezione parmigiana del Centro ufologico italiano.

«*Che gli autori dei cerchi di Panocchia fossero umani si era capito da tempo* – dice Pattera – *ma per averne la certezza assoluta abbiamo condotto una serie di analisi supplementari sul terreno*». È bastato ricostruire gli ultimi mesi d'attività dei coltivatori che curano il campo del «mistero» per svelare anche l'ultimo lato vagamente sospetto della vicenda. Tutto dipende da quattro cicli di trattamenti chimici iniziati in autunno. «*Gli agricoltori, dopo la semina, hanno usato alcuni normali diserbanti, mentre a fine novembre hanno sparso il nitrato di calcio* – spiega Pattera –. *Tra gennaio e febbraio è stato usato il nitrato di ammonio. Fra marzo e aprile, infine, gli agricoltori hanno sparso l'urea. Questi componenti si sono combinati in modo diverso nei vari punti del campo e hanno interagito con gli elementi del suolo, anche a causa delle piogge*». Fluorite, calcite e altri elementi sono concentrati in modo difforme anche perché la ghiaia della parte centrale del campo, residuo golenale, ha un effetto drenante: trattiene cioè concimi e acqua.

I campioni sono stati raccolti in diversi punti del-l'intersezione fra i tre cerchi, al centro dell'area verso il fiume e all'esterno dei cerchi, al limitare dei vigneti (dove la ghiaia scarseggia, così come gli elementi chimici in quantità «sospette»).

«*Nei giorni scorsi ho espresso i miei dubbi sui cerchi di Panocchia durante un convegno in Friuli* – continua Pattera –. *Ho voluto avvalorare il giudizio con esami scientifici che ritengo necessari per fugare ogni dubbio*». Il biologo spiega anche in che modo si possono realizzare umanissimi cerchi nei campi. «*Basta usare un rastrello, magari appesantito con una barra di metallo* – dice Pattera –. *Si fissa al terreno un paletto di metallo, di quelli usati in edilizia, vi si attacca il rastrello e si gira, come si fa con un compasso. Ed ecco come questi buontemponi hanno ottenuto i cerchi nelle messi*».

«Nelle messi», cioè nei campi coltivati in generale, perché non di solo grano vivono i cerchi misteriosi. «*Ne sono stati trovati in campi di orzo, riso, mais, persino erba medica* – conclude il biologo –. *Chi li traccia non ha alcuna predilezione particolare per il grano*».

Il biologo Pattera: «Le piogge sono responsabili dei valori chimici strani»

I cerchi nel grano di Panocchia.

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I cerchi nel grano di Panocchia.

Andrea Violi

20-8-75

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Mr. Querques said the commission was "in effect" offering the witnesses a choice between life imprisonment or death and that this amounts to "cruel and unusual punishment" and was therefore unconstitutional.

The State Supreme Court angrily rejected this argument, saying it equated "the laws of the Cosa Nostra with the laws of the state."

Another attack on the S.C.I. procedure filed on behalf of Mr. Catena went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which upheld his incarceration in a 1972 opinion.

S. M. Chris Franzblau, Mr. Catena's attorney, said Mrs. Catena replied "Thank God!" when he telephoned her today to inform her of the Supreme Court decision. "It's been a long, hard strugle," Mr. Franzblau said.

Only Side Saddles Permitted in Show

MOUNT HOLLY — The state's horse world will score another first on Sept. 6, when a show restricted to side saddlers will take place at Foggy Meadows Farm.

According to Mrs. Paul Kneeland, director of the International Side-Saddle Organization, which is sponsoring the show this will be the first time that a modern-day show has specified that only the side saddel can be used.

Entry fees range from $7 to $15. For further information, write to Mrs. Kneeland at RD 2, Box 2096, Mount Holly, or call her at (609) 261-1777.

said his largest asset was a trust with 3,452 stock shares in the Franklin Contracting Company of Little Ferry. The stockholders of the company agreed last year to dissolve the concern, and Mr. Crabiel's share represented a 28 per cent interest in Franklin.

Seabrook Gets Federal Grant

The Seabrook House Therapeutic Alcoholism Treatment Center in Seabrook has been awarded a $640,000 Federal grant to renovate and expand its facilities. Approved by the United States Department of Agriculture, the grant is the first under the community facilities loan program to be given for local alcoholic treatment.

Audit Discloses Loss of Interest

An audit has disclosed that the State Transportation Department lost $318,000 in interest by failing to quickly collect $4.54-million owed it by state and Federal agencies for bus commuter subsidies and other services.

Atlantic City to Vote on Change

Supporters of a mayor-council form of government for Atlantic City have collected 4,400 signatures on a petition, enough to put the issue on the November ballot.

McIntyre's Followers Are Told About Flying Saucers

Special to The New York Times

CAPE MAY, Aug. 19— Sightings of "flying saucers" tHat have stumped others posed no puzzle for the Rev. Carl McIntire's fourth annual U.F.O. conference here.

Many of the unidentified space vehicles are piloted by God's angels, Robert D. Barry, director of the 20th-Century U.F.O. Bureau, has been telling morning and night meetings daily since the conference opened Saturday with an introduction by Mr. McIntire.

A minority, Mr. Barry says, are operated by Lucifer's fallen angels.

The U.F.O. bureau was founded two years ago by Mr. McIntire, the fundamentalist minister from Collingswood, N. J., who is heard over radio stations throughout the country on his 20th-Century Reformation Hour program.

Althouth the bureau is only two years old, the week-long conference is billed as the "fourth annual" because Mr. Barry has lectured on the subject for four consecutive years at meetings at Mr. McIntire's conference center in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

175 On Hand

Last night 175 persons from 13 states and Canada heard Mr. Barry, former sales manager for radio station WGCB in Red Lion, Pa., relate flying saucers to scriptures at Mr. McIntire's Christian Admiral Hotel here.

And today, he cited a passage from Ezekiel: "Behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire enfolding itself, and a brightness was about it . . . .

"As I beheld the living creatures, behold one wheel upon the earth by the living creatures . . . . their appearandce and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel. When they went, they went upon their four sides: and they turned not when they went."

The U.F.O. bureau director, a one-man staff who works out of his home in Pennsylvania, suggested today that his isteners order a $1 tract, the 20th Century Reformation Hour, plus his cassette tapes on U.F.O. sightings for $5 each and Mr. McIntire's Christian Beacon weekly newspaper for $5 a year.

In addition, he offered to process all requests to be placed on the mailing list for all McIntire enterprises. Among other things that bring in hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to the McIntire programs are contributions solicited from those on the mailing lists, attendance at Bibe conferences at McIntire hotels here and in Florida, sales of McIntire condominiums at Cape Canaveral, and annual McIntire-guided trips to the Middle East.

Many of those attending the U.F.O. conference are vacationing at McIntire hotels here. Others came just for the conference.

Mrs. Daniel McMurray of Wilmington, Del., wife of an engineer, said she and her husband reserved the rooms "far in advance" to make sure of accommodations. She called some of the scriptural associations "striking."

But a minority was skeptical. Richard Woike, an insurance agent from St. Davids, Pa., and his wife, walked out last night. They were on vacation and had just dined at the Christian Admiral.

"My son-in-law is a scientist and he says there is an explanation for each sighting, such as government testing," said Mrs. Woike. "It is amazing that people come from any distance to hear this," her husband added.

...onference of U.F.O. reported in Brazil

The New York Times/David A. O'Neill

ner, who arranged the visit, but not by reporters, who were barred from the "classified" 90-minute tour of the 6,500-acre facility. The officials reportedly viewed a heavy-artillery demonstation staged for their benefit, and were briefed by the Arsenal Commander, Col. Kilbert F. Lockwood.

"There is no reason at this point, as far as I know," the Undersecretary later told reporters, "to believe that there is any leaning one way or another."

The Army is considering several options offered by a civilian study group, which issued a report one year ago on the effectiveness of five arsenals nation-wide. The options were ultimately reduced to three: that the Army consolidate most of its ballistics research and development activities at either Picatinny Arsenal, or the Aberdeen Proving Ground, in northeastern Maryland, or divide such activities between the two arsenals, both of which have been termed crucial to their local economies.

Mrs. Meyner in Warning

Mrs. Meyner, who has been active in the drive here and in Washington to keep the arsenal open, warned "how disastrous it would be economically to all of Northern New Jersey if Picatinny should close, with unemployment as high as 13 per cent."

Despite the Undersecretary's noncommital tone, Governor Byrne said the tour gave him "a subjective optimism" that "Picatinny will remain part of the defense effort in the United States and in New Jersey for some time to come."

Mr. Augustine, weighing the pluses and minuses of the two facilities, noted that the bulk of the Army's ballistics research and development team is now located at Picatinny. A move, he said, would be costly. On the other hand, he cited the superiority of the test firing ranges at the more specious Aberdeen facility.

The undersecretary said the first consideration would be given to the relative benefits to the Army, then to the economic impact on the community. The decision will be made by Army Secretary Martin Hoffmann.

The State Department of Labor and Industry has predicted that shutdown of the arsenal would ultimately cost the state 16,700 jobs, including lost positions at arsenal subcontractors and at local businesses, due to the "ripple effect" of the layoffs on the economy.

Blue Cross Picket Arrested

NEWARK, Aug. 19 (UPI) — A picketing New Jersey Blue Cross-Blue Shield worker and four "strike sympathizers" were arrested today on charges of blocking the entrance to the medical service's headquarters here, the police reported. The 1,500 strikers, members of the Office and Professional Employes International Union, A.F.L.-C.I.O. walked off their jobs on June 4 to protest stalled contract negotiations.

LOTTERY NUMBERS
August 19, 1975

N.J. Daily—41904
N.J. Pick-It Lottery—026

GUARDIANO NOTTURNO CATTURATO DA UN UFO

GENOVA — Per tre ore, un guardiano notturno genovese è stato « prigioniero » di un oggetto volante non identificato. lo dice Fortunato Zanfretta, di 27 anni, peraltro non nuovo a « esperienze » del genere: già nel dicembre del '78 Zanfretta avrebbe visto una astronave e ne avrebbe incontrato gli occupanti. « E' stato — mentre facevo il mio giro — ha raccontato Zanfretta — che sono stato preso da un « ufo »: sia io sia la macchina siamo stati portati a bordo dell'astronave ». Il guardiano notturno, che appariva in stato confusionale, non ha però precisato che cosa sia accaduto all'interno dell'astronave.

Sta di fatto che per tre ore, dalle 23 alle 2, Zanfretta non ha risposto alle chiamate, via radio, della centrale della « Valbisagno ». Il contatto radio è stato ristabilito alle 2,02, quando Zanfretta ha chiesto aiuto ai colleghi.

Ha spiegato di trovarsi a Marzano, una località collinare dell'entroterra genovese, lo stesso posto dove, un anno fa, sostiene di aver avvistato un'astronave.

NIENTE UFO PER I RUSSI

MOSCA — *Gli UFO non esistono, tant'è vero che i nostri cosmonauti non ne hanno mai visti. E' questo il succo di un'intervista apparsa sulla « Pravda » al direttore dell'Istituto di Magnetismo Terrestre ed esperto in onde radio Vladimir Migulin. Lo scienziato sovietico afferma: « Falsificare la scienza è dannoso. Per ipotesi sugli Ufo c'è soltanto una fonte: l'incapacità o la non disponibilità ad [illegible]zione scientifica ».*

DELEBIO

Attenti! C'è un UFO in quel fienile

DELEBIO, 20 novembre (M.B.) Un fatto inspiegabile è accaduto attorno alle 6 di ieri mattina in un fienile in località Tavani, una frazione del comune di Delebio. Mentre il contadino Giovanni Pontaletta, 57 anni, stava accudendo ad alcuni lavori alla fioca luce di una lampadina, l'interno del fienile è stato all'improvviso e per alcuni momenti illuminato a giorno da un fortissimo fascio di luce proveniente — ha raccontato poi - da «una una gran palla luminosa come il sole». Ripresosi dallo spavento il Pontaletta ha raggiunto la vicina abitazione, avvertendo di quanto era accaduto i parenti. Con loro ha poi compiuto senza risultato un vasto giro di perlustrazioner tutto attorno, nel tentativo di dare una spiegazione all'improvviso fenomeno.

Quello che ha impressionato il Pontaletta è stata l'assoluta mancanza di calore che solitamente una fonte di luce così forte invece provoca.

Il contadino ha cercato di collegare il fenomeno alla morte piuttosto recente di una persona, deceduta all'improvviso proprio nella stalla.

Unidentified Objects in Sky Sighted at Goldsboro, N.C.

GOLDSBORO, N. C., Oct. 24 (AP)—A number of Goldsboro residents, including airmen at nearby Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, reported having seen unidentified flying objects last night.

At least 10 persons said they had seen objects flashing green and red lights in the sky.

Another reported having seen a greenish white light flashing across the sky.

A woman said she saw a flashing light over the flight line at the base and telephoned the base radar station. Airmen there said they saw the object, but couldn't pick it up on radar.

RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP, N J., Oct. 24 (AP)—Two policemen, Sgt. Michael Lizum and Patrolman Leslie Mills, reported having seen an unidentified flying object, "like a flare dancing across the horizon," last night in this Morris County community.

"24"

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Martedì 11 Dicembre 2007

SCOPERTO L'AMBIENTE DELLA VITA SU MARTE

Il robot della Nasa Spirit *(nella foto)* ha scoperto sulla superficie di Marte un ambiente che in passato era perfetto per ospitare batteri e microrganismi viventi. Spirit ha individuato alcune rocce vulcaniche entrate in contatto con acqua bollente e vapore acqueo.

ment spending has been increas- particular scientific objectives.

Investigators Using Radar Find No Evidence of Flying Objects

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5 (AP)—The Air Force said today no radar sighting of strange flying objects had been reported by its investigators.

It began an inquiry after having received reports of objects from several places in the country and at sea. Some of the reports spoke of an egg-shaped object several hundred feet long. Word of sightings has come recently from Texas, New Mexico and other states.

The Air Force said it had received no report yet on the sighting of a fast-moving bright object in the Gulf of Mexico by the crew of a Coast Guard cutter.

Such reports, as well as those of sightings ashore, are referred to the Air Force for investigation. The Navy said it would make no independent investigations.

In the last ten years the Air Force has investigated 5,700 reports of strange objects, 250 of them between January and June this year. All but a small fraction have been explained as aircraft, astronomical phenomena, hoaxes or hallucinations, it said.

Attributed to Outer Space

BUFFALO, N. Y., Nov. 5 (AP)—A Bell Aircraft Corporation engineer said today that the traveling lights reported over Texas and other states had come from outer space.

"They do not fit in with any of our knowledge concerning mechanics or electronics," Edward L. Kramer declared.

He said the lights were apparently the same as a bright orange object he and others reported having seen over Buffalo early last month.

"These objects, of course, are entirely out of the conception of the earth," he added.

Called Mirages

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Nov. 5 (UP)—Dr. Donald H. Menzel, director of the Harvard College Observatory, said tonight that the mysterious flying objects were mirages.

"It's no great surprise to me that there has been another flying saucer scare," he said, "because there are just as many now as there were in 1947 and 1948 when the first flying saucer scare started.

He said the phenomenon was caused by "heated air close to the ground which can form an image of objects fifty to 100 miles away."

"The current rash of flying saucers is tied in with the sensitization of people to the sputniks," he declared.

Falls in Alexandria

CAIRO, Nov. 5 (UP)—A flaming object bounced into a schoolyard in Alexandria today. Russian scientists who rushed to the scene from the atoms-for-peace exhibit here identified it as part of a short-range missile.

The object, three inches long, two inches wide and less than an inch thick, was made of white rubber and equipped with three lenses.

The newspaper Al Akhbar here reported that a fireball streaked across the sky yesterday. It said several persons had seen it. However, the Helwan Observatory said it had not observed the phenomenon.

No planes were flying over Alexandria when the object struck.

TIMES, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1966.

'Saucers' Believed By Physicist Here To Be His Balloons

A New York physicist said yesterday he believed he was responsible for many of the unidentified flying objects that have been spotted in the last few years over the United States and Canada.

The physicist, Dr. Serge A. Korff, director of the cosmic research program at New York University, told a youth science seminar at the Explorer's Club that many of the sightings had been of giant balloons sent aloft to test the upper atmosphere.

The balloons, he said, are 300 to 400 feet across and because they are partly inflated, assume strange shapes as they ascend.

"At high altitudes they often reflect sunlight and become visible to viewers below in areas where the sun has set or before it has risen," he said.

During the last 30 years, he said, more than 110 flights to detect cosmic rays have been carried out by N. Y. U. Similar flights are sponsored by some 15 to 20 other organizations, he said.

Dr. Korff, a past president of the Explorer's Club, did not ascribe all the sightings to exploratory balloons.

Meantime, residents of Suffolk County reported seeing a hovering object with flashing lights Thursday night and Friday morning.

More than 100 persons, including several policemen, said they saw the object over beach communities on Eastern Long Island. One policeman described the object as resembling a "big white star."

It was the second such sighting in Suffolk County in a week.

whether "you can count on stu-

BRIGHT LIGHT SEEN IN PATCHOGUE SKY

U.F.O. Is Called Multicolored by 5 Suffolk Policemen

By FRANCIS X. CLINES
Special to The New York Times

PATCHOGUE, L.I., Oct. 21—Five Suffolk County policemen reported having observed early this morning a multicolored light "far brighter than any star" moving slowly through the night sky.

The policemen said they had watched the light gradually ascend above the southeast horizon during a four-hour period while it changed in color from white to green, red and blue.

Their observations were presented to the Suffolk County Air Force Base in Westhampton as a report of an unidentified flying object. Initial news accounts had described the source of light "as sausage-shaped."

In interviews at the police precinct this afternoon, however, the five policemen said they could not ascribe any shape to the light. A sixth observer, a photographer for The Daily News, took photographs of the light.

Report Under Study

A spokesman at the Air Force base said the report was being investigated and that there was no immediate explanation.

The light was first observed by Patrolman James Tate at 1:10 A.M. as he walked his beat in this South Shore community. He had just checked the doors of the Dunton Avenue School, he said, and in glancing about noticed "an extremely bright light beyond the tree tops."

"It was just to the left of a street lamp" in his line of vision he said, "and it was as bright as the street lamp."

The light was not moving and appeared to be far away, the policeman said. He said it was "like no star I ever saw" and immediately summoned assistance. Two policemen who responded, Sgt. Enrico Maimoni and Patrolman Frederick Kruger, confirmed Patrolman Tate's observations.

The photographer, James Mooney, was summoned and took a series of photographs. The group observed the light for approximately an hour, then returned to the precinct to make their report.

'Funny at First'

"I thought it was funny at first and kidded Tate," Detective Eugene Kiechlien, a fifth witness, said. "But then I saw it on the way home."

He said that he had roused his wife, Rosalie, and they had watched through the picture window of their home in Patchogue for 90 minutes, until 3:30 A.M.

"And then, I swear to God, it was joined by two other lights," he said.

None of the others reported sighting this.

The fifth police witness, Detective William Schoenig, said the light had been "three or four times brighter and bigger than any star" but would have had to be pointed out to command one's attention.

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that these would be released "within three or four days."

Air Force to Press Study Of Unidentified Objects

WASHINGTON, July 14 (AP)—The Air Force intends to make contracts with universities to provide scientific teams to investigate promptly and in depth sightings of unidentified flying objects.

The Air Force said today that no schools had been chosen and the number to be used in the investigations was still indefinite.

A scientific advisory board recommended last March that this course of action be followed by the Air Force, which has pledge to strengthen studies of reports it receives on such objects.

«Un punto luminoso molto intenso veniva contro il mio aereo»

Dopo Orta, Ufo anche vicino a Novara? Li ha visti un pilota dei jet di Cameri

NOVARA — Avvistamenti di Ufo nel Novarese?

Il tenente colonnello Giulio Mainini, comandante il 21° gruppo caccia intercettori di stanza a Cameri, ha notato, come tanti altri, qualche cosa di misterioso nel cielo. *«Ero decollato alle 20 diretto a Sud* (pilotava un bisonico F.104) *ed a circa metà strada tra Cameri e Genova, dopo avere virato a sinistra verso Piacenza, ho notato sulla destra, ad una distanza imprecisabile, un punto luminoso assai intenso. Ho avuto l'impressione che quel "punto" si ingrandisse e venisse verso di me e l'ho guardato con una certa preoccupazione. Non credo potesse trattarsi di un aereo o di un pallone illuminato dal sole cadente poiché la luce era troppo intensa. Non poteva essere neppure una stella in quanto troppo bassa all'orizzonte. Ho proseguito sulla mia rotta* — conclude Mainini — *e dopo tre minuti quell'oggetto è sparito dalla mia vista»*.

Non è la prima volta che gli aviatori di Cameri conosciuti come i «cacciatori di stelle» avvistano nel cielo «cose» misteriose; ogni avvistamento dà luogo ad una relazione molto riservata ed a commenti tra i più disparati. Il comandante della base aerea, colonnello Carlo Sabbatini, è piuttosto scettico: lui ai dischi volanti non ci crede. *«Anch'io* — racconta — *ho visto una volta, mentre ero in volo sull'Italia meridionale un punto luminoso ed ho avuto qualche perplessità. Ho poi scoperto trattarsi di una nube di sodio originata da un lancio sperimentale da una base della Sardegna»*.

Il ten. col. Giulio Mainini

Il col. Carlo Sabbatini

E' un po' il settembre degli Ufo: la scorsa settimana turisti e residenti di Orta sono stati per una decina di minuti con il naso all'insù ad osservare le evoluzioni di due oggetti volanti luminosi e misteriosi. Decine di testimoni oculari raccontano di avere visto «quei cosi» provenire dalla Valsesia, volteggiare e poi sostare a perpendicolo sulle acque del lago d'Orta per poi allontanarsi a grande velocità.

p. b.

MORTARA — Anna Maranini, di Ferrara, con la lirica dal titolo «Vecchio», ha vinto la dodicesima edizione del premio «Poesia nazionale Città di Mortara». La scelta della giuria è stata fatta su oltre mille opere presentate da 535 concorrenti di tutta Italia.

PETTENASCO — Si disputerà domenica 24 settembre, sul classico circuito del Lago d'Orta, la prova unica per il campionato provinciale «Gentleman» di ciclismo. In palio il trofeo «Hotel Giardinetto». Alla partenza, prevista per le ore 9,30, si schiererà il campione regionale Paolo Piumarta.

L'on. Colombo al palazzo dei congressi di Stresa

Il presidente del Parlamento europeo inaugura la conferenza del traffico

STRESA — La trentacinquesima conferenza del traffico e della circolazione è stata inaugurata, al palazzo dei congressi, dal presidente del Parlamento europeo, a. on. Emilio Colombo. Erano presenti il senatore Camillo Ripamonti, presidente dell'Automobile Club di Milano, e l'avvocato Filippo Carpi de' Resmini, presidente dell'Automobile Club d'Italia; a rappresentare il governo è intervenuto il ministro dei Trasporti, on. Vittorino Colombo. Il sindaco di Stresa, Alberto Galli, ha portato ai congressisti il saluto della città. Il sen. Ripamonti ha svolto la sua relazione, dichiarando che *«la Conferenza esce quest'anno dall'ambito italiano per ssurgere a incontro di livello europeo»*. Il ministro dei Trasporti, sen. Vittorino Colombo, ha poi esordito affermando che *«oggi, in Italia, forze politiche e sociali sono impegnate in uno sforzo certamente non facile per tentare di superare il modello di vita consumistico ed edonistico, spinti dalla volontà di riscoprire valori morali o spirituali che hanno animato il popolo italiano nei momenti più difficili della sua storia»*.

La prima relazione del congresso è stata tenuta nel pomeriggio. L'avvocato Ugo Carnevali, professore di diritto civile della Facoltà di Giurisprudenza all'Università di Pavia, ha esposto sul tema: *«Responsabilità civili e penali ed aspetti assicurativi»*, soffermandosi sulla parte giuridica e collegandola con il problema sociale. Il relatore ha, tra l'altro, rilevato che *«non vanno trascurati gli aspetti assicurativi, necessariamente collegati ad ogni indagine in tema di responsabilità civile. L'assicurazione obbligatoria RC è divenuta patrimonio comune degli ordinamenti degli Stati europei: ma l'attuazione di essa non è avvenuta, in ciascuno di questi, con le medesime modalità. Interessa allora mettere in evidenza sia le concordanze sia le discordanze delle diverse legislazioni nazionali. In particolare, due temi appaiono di preminente interesse nella chiave europea del convegno: la carta verde e il fondo di garanzia»*.

Proseguendo, il programma dei lavori congressuali toccherà un altro argomento di viva attualità; la relazione che sarà tenuta dal prof. Giuseppe Mirabelli avrà come tema: *«Il progetto del codice della strada in relazione alle convenzioni internazionali ed alla normativa comunitaria»*. A margine della conferenza è da citare una protesta messa in atto dall'Uopa (Unione Ossolana per l'Autonomia), che ha richiamato l'attenzione sull'Ossola con scritte riportate su striscioni.

g.d.a.

Il curioso mistero delle uova regalate a Vaprio

Servizio in altra pagina

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I PILOTI AMERICANI: RIAPRIRE INDAGINI SUGLI UFO

Un gruppo di ex piloti ed ex ufficiali governativi americani ha chiesto al Governo federale di riaprire il Project blue book, programma che fu chiuso nel 1969 dopo aver analizzato 12.500 avvistamenti di Ufo. Ma l'aviazione militare Usa ritiene che non ci siano novità tali da giustificare una riapertura.

IL GIORNALE D'ITALIA 27 Aprile 1990

AVVISTAMENTI DI UFO NELLE MARCHE

ANCONA. Da circa quindici giorni si sono intensificati nelle Marche gli avvistamenti di oggetti volanti non identificati. Luci notturne con strane traiettorie sono state notate a Tolentino e a Camerino a Fabriano e Jesi. Cinque giorni fa, inoltre, due docenti universitari di Urbino hanno osservato un globo luminoso bianco-verde «tagliare» il cielo di Pesaro, verso le ore 23. Due turisti anconetani hanno invece osservato a Gradara una formazione di cinque oggetti sferici, di colore metallico, volare a una quota considerevole in direzione del mare. «Non si è trattato di aerei - ha dichiarato uno dei testimoni - in quanto gli oggetti procedevano a tratti a zig-zag e non emettevano scie di fumo». Altre segnalazioni di oggetti non identificati sono state registrate a Grottammare e a Fermo.

Dopo Roma avvistato un «ufo» nelle Marche

CAMERINO – È stato avvistato anche nel Maceratese, all'altezza del lago di Caldarola fra Tolentino e Camerino, l'oggetto luminoso - probabilmente un meteorite - che ha solcato sabato sera il cielo di Roma.

La compagnia dei carabinieri di Camerino ha raccolto le testimonianze di tre persone che affermano di aver visto la «palla» luminosa attraversare il cielo al di sopra del lago intorno alle 20.30. L'oggetto, hanno detto i testimoni, si muoveva a grande velocità. L'avvistamento è durato un paio di minuti.

HE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

FLYING OBJECTS BRING ON INQUIRY

Air Force Acts on Sightings in Texas and New Mexico Atom Testing Site

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4 (AP)—The Air Force said today it was investigating reports of a lighted object said by witnesses to have flown over West Texas and touched ground with strange results.

Reports of the object flying with a "great sound and rush of wind," and of such incidents as auto engines stopping as they approached it on the ground, came from several places over the week-end.

An Air Force spokesman said a preliminary investigation had been ordered. In reply to questions as to the significance of such an order, he said: "We don't investigate all of them, after all."

Preliminary investigations are made by available Air Force personnel in the area. General jurisdiction over reports of flying saucers and the like belongs to the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson Base in Ohio, which orders more detailed investigations if preliminary check-ups indicate such a need.

An object reported yesterday near Levelland, Tex., was described variousty as a burning mass, a big light and a red, egg-shaped mass 200 feet long. Among those who said they had seen it were a sheriff and one of his deputies.

Spotted by Patrols

WHITE SANDS PROVING GROUNDS, N. M., Nov. 4 (AP)—The Army said today that a huge, oval object "nearly as bright as the sun" was spotted yesterday above bunkers used in the first atomic explosion.

The sightings were made seventeen hours apart by two military police patrols on this missile testing range. The first atomic bo[illegible] was touched off on the northern edge of the area in 1945.

The commanding officer of the M. P.'s said none had heard radio reports or seen newspaper accounts of similar sightings in Te[illegible]s.

Both sightings were in the area of abandoned bunkers used by technicians who observed the first atomic explosion. The bunkers are of reinforced concrete and dirt, and contain no equipment or personnel. The explosion site, leveled and filled in, is several miles away.

One patrol saw a bright light that took off at a 45-degree angle and started blinking. Then it disappeared.

An earlier sighting was made by two soldiers in a jeep. They noticed a "very bright object" high in the sky. It descended until it was about fifty yards above the bunkers when it went out, they reported.

A few minutes later, they said, "the object became real bright, like the sun, then fell in an angle to the ground and went out." It was described as seventy-five to 100 yards in diameter and shaped like an egg. An officer accompanied some M. P.'s to the site but found nothing.

Neither patrol had had motor trouble with their jeeps.

Incident in Chicago

CHICAGO, Nov. 4 (UP)—Three suburban policmen said today they had seen an aerial phenomenon similar to one reported in West Texas and New Mexico.

They said a bright, cigar-shaped cylinder had appeared in the early morning, and had dimmed the headlights and spotlight of their squad car. They chased it until it rose out of sight, they added.

Senator Capehart in Hospital

INDIANAPOLIS, Nov. 4 (AP)—Senator Homer E. Capehart was admitted to St. Vincent's Hospital here today for minor surgery. The Indiana Republican's physician said he would be confined to the hospital for three or four days.

PHYSICIST SCORES 'SAUCER' STATUS

Says Science Is 'Delinquent' on Research Into Reports

By EVERT CLARK
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20 — An Arizona scientist urged today "a radical change" in the investigation of unidentified flying objects to determine if some may come from other worlds.

Dr. James E. McDonald said in an interview that science had been delinquent in dismissing so-called "flying saucers" with too few attempts to find physical or psychological explanations.

Dr. McDonald is professor of meteorology at the University of Arizona and senior physicist at the Institute of Atmospheric Physics there.

He said that 18 years of "administrative foul-up" by the Air Force, which is charged with investigating aerial phenomena, and deliberate Government "debunking" of U. F. O. sightings had frightened away scientists and left needless confusion in the public's mind.

While any attempt to explain saucers as extraterrestrial visitors seems "absurd," that explanation also seems now to be the "least unsatisfactory hypothesis" for at least some sightings, Dr. McDonald said.

"I believe this is a problem of the first order of scientific importance," Dr. McDonald said. "It has been neglected and misrepresented and it is crying for high-caliber attention."

The tall, sandy-haired researcher holds degrees in physics, chemistry and meteorology. For about 12 years he has interviewed anyone in the Tucson area who reported having seen unusual objects in the sky.

"I have never had more than puzzlement until this spring," he said. Then a rash of sightings across the country and Congressional attention to the question increased his own interest.

Since then he has spent most of his time telephoning, traveling and otherwise looking into U.F.O.'s.

It was announced on Oct. 6 that the University of Colorado at Boulder had been selected by the Air Force to conduct independent investigations into reports of unidentified flying objects. Dr. Edward U. Condon will direct the scientific phases of the work.

Because he believes the Air Force has mishandled its role, treating the saucer reports "at a very low level of scientific competence," he sees a need for concurrent investigation by "outfits that have no vested interest"—the National Science Foundation "or more sensibly, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration."

While his investigations have convinced him there is no attempt "to cover up a super-super-secret," he says he found evidence in Air Force document that the Central Intelligence Agency in 1953 asked the Air Force to "debunk" saucer reports because they were clogging vital military reporting channels and demanding too much time of investigatiors.

The C.I.A. reiterated today a statement it made earlier this month after Dr. McDonald discussed his views with Arizona newsmen.

It said the agency had helped analyze sighting reports of unidentified flying objects in the early nineteen-fifties to help determine if some objects "might have originated from overseas."

The Air Force at that time concluded that it had no evidence that the sighted objects were hostile, were the "artifacts" of a foreign power, or were extraterrestrial in origin.

"Presently, the subject of U.F.O. is a responsibility of the Air Force and we have absolutely no interest either in building up or debunking any information regarding, or views on, U.F.O.'s," the agency's statement concluded.

"It's been a very informative meeting."

The delegates attending the "Flying Saucer" convention here recently did not show any special surprise.

"After all," said one neatly dressed matron, "in this day and age anything is possible."

This "anything is possible" attitude seems to be gaining steadily wider acceptance these days among the expanding numbers of people who are taking an interest in U.F.O.'s (unidentified flying objects).

Upsurge of Interest

There has been a sharp upsurge of interest in U.F.O.'s around the nation. Membership in U.F.O. clubs is soaring and, predictably, the number of sightings of "saucers" seems to be growing apace.

In Southern California, a hotbed of activity in the field, the flying saucer zealots regularly appear on television and are heard on radio. Across the nation the more scientifically oriented organizations have clashed sharply with the more fanciful groups that claim to maintain day-to-day contact with extraterrestrial visitors.

Coincidentally, a team of scientists at the University of Colorado began work this week on a $300,000 Government-financed investigation into the growing number of sightings around the nation.

Outside Investigators

The study marks the first time that the Government has encouraged outside investigators to look into the controversial question, and officials agree that it has come at a propitious time in view of the more numerous sightings.

Predictably, the more extreme groups assert that this study proves that the Government really believes in extraterrestrial visitors after all. The conservative U.F.O. groups meanwhile hope that the University of Colorado study will take some of the wind out of the sails of the "kooks."

"The lunatic fringe is an embarrassment to us," said Richard Hall, assistant director of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, a private organization whose membership has doubled to more than 11,000 in the last year alone.

Rise in Number of Sightings

Mr. Hall attributes this increase in membership to a rise in the number of sightings in the last few months.

"There have been nearly 30 fairly well-documented sightings in the past six months alone," he said.

Mr. Hall's organization takes the position that there have been enough confirmed sightings to justify an intensive scientific scrutiny of U.F.O.'s, but it declines to take a position on the nature of the "saucers."

In contrast to this group is the Amalgamated Flying Saucer Club of America in Los Angeles, whose president, Gabriel Green, insists that he can prove that "we have been visited regularly by extraterrestrials."

Many of the 3,700 members of this organization say they have seen saucers land, and some say they've traveled in spacecraft, according to Mr.

enforceable in France. | The President's topic, "Sci-

Strange Radio Signals Mystify Experts at Listening Posts Here

A strange new radio signal, unlike the recognizable electronic voices of Soviet earth satellites, has been picked up here during the last few days by both Government and private monitors.

The Defense Department confirmed last night that the mysterious signal had been received at Army listening posts on a frequency of 14.286 megacycles. Signals definitely identified as having come from the Russian satellites have been on frequencies of 20.005 and 40.002 megacycles.

The phenomenon has excited the curiosity of commercial radio companies and amateur "hams" as well as the Defense Department.

Even more baffling was the fact that the source of the unidentified signal apparently was moving.

The Radio Corporation of America, which operates sensitive receivers at Riverhead, L. I., for picking up transatlantic messages, was alerted yesterday by a telephone call from an amateur operator. A receiver was immediately tuned to 14.286 megacycles.

An RCA spokesman said "a sort of wobbly" signal was picked up at 5:10 P.M. It increased in strength, and by 5:15 was "quite good." Directional antennas then indicated the greatest strength from about 50 degrees east of due North.

By 5:20 P.M., the strange signal was at its peak intensity, but by this time its source had moved 15 degrees to the east.

The best reception coincided with the strongest signal from the second Russian satellite, which RCA heard for the second time during the afternoon between 5:18 and 5:26 P.M.

RCA had also picked up the earth satellite's signal between 3:31 and 3:49 P. M.

Clear signals from the satellite were also received yesterday by the Navy Research Laboratory in Washington, headquarters in this country for satellite radio study. The Laboratory's Minitrack system, an intricate receiving and electronic computing network designed specifically for tracking artificial satellites, recorded "grand slugs of data."

The signals identified as coming from the satellite were received on the 40 megacycle band. None was received from the satellite's other transmitter, which broadcasts at 20 megacycles. These two frequencies were also used by the first Russian satellite, whose radios have died.

The 40 megacycle transmitter broadcasts a continuous, steady tone. The 20 megacycle radio reportedly sends a continuous series of "beeps."

...im are Willi Stoph, left, and Erich

Air Force Selecting University to Study 'Flying Saucer' Data

By WALTER SULLIVAN

In obvious response to public disquiet regarding recent "flying saucer" reports, the Air Force is organizing a new approach to the problem.

It is seeking to contract with a leading university to undertake a program of intensive investigations of a certain number of such reports.

The identity of the university will not be made public until the arrangement is final, but Air Force sources said it was an institution of sufficient stature to guarantee in the public mind that its inquiry would be impartial.

The investigating teams are to include at least one physical scientist, such as an astronomer or someone familiar with atmospheric physics. Significantly, there will also be a psychologist, preferably one with clinical experience.

This marks a departure from past Air Force policy. It has not taken very seriously the thousands of reports of "unidentified flying objects," or UFO's, that have come in during the last two decades.

These investigations have been termed "Project Blue Book" because the results are reported in such books. The attitude of the Air Force toward the problem is reflected in the fact that the project staff has consisted of one officer, one sergeant and a secretary.

The blue-book analyses of 10,147 sightings from 1947 to the start of this year furnished a conventional explanation for all but 646 of them. The remainder were classed as unidentifiable for lack of adequate information.

The explanations have ranged from weather balloons to swamp gas. The latter was cited to explain strange glowing lights reported at two points in Michigan last March.

In both cases they were

Continued on Page 70, Column 3

Seeing Things

INCIDENT AT EXETER: The Story of Unidentified Flying Objects Over America Today. By John G. Fuller. 251 pp. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. $5.95.

ANATOMY OF A PHENOMENON: Unidentified Objects in Space—A Scientific Appraisal. By Jacques Vallee. Illustrated. 210 pp. Chicago: Henry Regnery Company. $4.95.

FLYING SAUCERS—SERIOUS BUSINESS. By Frank Edwards. Illustrated. 319 pp. New York: Lyle Stuart. $5.95.

By WALTER SULLIVAN

THESE three books, all written by "believers," are dedicated to the proposition that, as the title of one suggests, flying saucers are "serious business." There is no doubt that the reports of "flying saucers" or "UFO's" (unidentified flying objects) constitute one of the most perplexing phenomena of our time. There are now on record detailed descriptions of various craft that have been seen, not only in distant flight, but close to the ground.

Great numbers of people, particularly in this country, believe these are craft manned by visitors from some other world. Such belief is not limited to the crackpots who say they have made trips aboard them, or the cultists who believe they are flown by demigods. It is shared, as well, by a number of citizens of considerable intelligence and sophistication. The sightings themselves have, on occasion, been made by policemen, airline pilots and other seemingly reliable citizens.

Yet the Air Force, responsible for checking on any intruders into American air space, claims it has found no evidence that any craft of otherworldly design has penetrated our skies. The space-scanning devices used by the North American Air Defense Command have not reported any such objects, although they keep track of more than 1,000 items in orbit around the earth. The same is true of the great radars that sweep northern skies on the lookout for Soviet planes and missiles, or the nation-wide, traffic-control system of the Federal Aviation Agency, or the Moonwatch teams of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory who carry national responsibility for visual monitoring of objects in orbit.

The Ad Hoc Committee of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Air Force that looked into the problem early this year pointed out that the sky survey conducted by the Mount Palomar Observatory in California produced 5,000 wide-angle, high magnification photographs of the heavens. The Harvard Meteor Project of 1954-58 did 3,300 hours of sky-gazing. The Smithsonian visual Prairie Network added another 2,500. "Not a single unidentified object has been reported," the committee said.

Drawing by Stevenson. ©1966 The New Yorker Magazine, Inc.
"There's the fellow who spotted us. I imagine he is regarded as something cf a crank by now."

Yet reports of sightings continue to be published. It is therefore not surprising that many Americans feel the Government is holding out on them. Some accuse the press of cooperating in the conspiracy. If the public knew the truth, it is said, there would be "panic."

Unfortunately for its popular image, the Air Force has not thought the UFO's serious business. It has assigned responsibility for the problem to an office manned by one officer, a sergeant and a secretary. It is known as the Office of Project Blue Book, since it issues periodic reports on its investigations, known as Blue Books. The project comes under the Foreign Technology Division at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio. This apparently stems from early suspicion that UFO's might, in fact, be foreign craft of unconventional design.

The Air Force lack of serious interest in the subject has been reflected, also, in its procedures for investigation, routinely carried out by the Air Force base nearest the site of a report. The incident may be investigated by a team from Wright-Patterson or by the Air Force adviser on the subject, J. Allen Hynek, an astronomer. But no team of specialists sophisticated in the various sciences that bear on this problem has been organized to check on the more plausible reports.

The reason seems obvious enough: The Air Force does not believe in flying saucers. Neither do members of the scientific community (with a very few exceptions). Not that they believe visitations from other planets to be wholly impossible. Rather they seem so improbable that, barring more convincing evidence, the doubters are inclined to look for other explanations.

Thus the Air Force has come up with a variety of interpretations: The sightings have been ascribed to swamp gas (which sounded preposterous, but proved reasonable in at least one case), weather balloons, orbiting satellites, meteors, aircraft, searchlights on clouds, optical illusions (such as reflections on windshields) and numerous other phenomena. It seems evident that in a number of cases Air Force officers were too quick with their explanations. What they cited could not possibly have accounted for what was allegedly seen. This helped undermine public confidence in the investigations.

Furthermore, there has been much public interest in the recent arguments of scientists themselves that life must exist at many points in the universe. It is hard to believe that our world among the countless planetary systems is the only one where intelligent life has evolved.

Why, then, are the Air Force and the scientific community so skeptical? One reason is that it seems unlikely that intelligent life exists anywhere in our solar system except on earth. Immanuel Kant, the great 18th-century thinker, believed with his contemporaries that all of the planets circling our sun were inhabited. Those living on the innermost planets, Venus and Mercury, were at a very primitive level of moral development, he said, whereas the residents of Jupiter were of almost angelic character. Modern astronomy has ruled out the possibility of life even remotely resembling our own on all the planets except Mars, and even that one is almost totally lacking in oxygen and liquid water.

Assuming, then, that visitors would have to come from other planetary systems, one is faced with the enormous distances. Using the most advanced rockets foreseeable in our technological future, such journeys would still take centuries.

Another source of professional skepticism is the limited number of persons making any one sighting. Where a vehicle was described in any detail, the witnesses have been limited to a handful. The skeptics admit that something must have been seen, the question being: What was it? Why has there never been an episode that left undeniable physical evidence—not just something explicable in other ways, a peculiar print in the ground or a patch of scorched grass?

If, then, visitations from other worlds are improbable, what reasonable explanation can one offer for the detailed descriptions of peculiar spacecraft that abound in these books? It probably will be the psychologists who will provide the answer. To most of those who believe they have seen such craft their existence seems reasonable. Such people have been conditioned by television shows, comic strips, science fiction—and other flying-saucer reports. They are remote from the scientific reasoning that makes such visits seem unlikely.

A few generations ago even highly intelligent and observant people believed in ghosts, saw them and described them in great detail. This is no longer true because the public no longer believes ghosts possible. Furthermore, such manifestations are subject to on-the-spot examination. This is not true of a transitory, distant phenomenon.

HUMAN estimates of size, distance and time can be grossly in error, particularly in the dark. The manner in which people can be made to see what they have been led to expect is well known to any magician. And when an element of panic enters into the situation, the misconceptions are accentuated. It is noteworthy that accounts of the sightings near Exeter, N. H., last September stress the panic felt by several observers.

The book, "Incident at Exeter," is devoted to this episode and to the flying-saucer question in general. Its author, John G. Fuller, writes a column for the Saturday Review and has written several plays. His accounts conjure up memories of old books on witchcraft: Animals "sense" the approach of a strange craft before human beings do and give forth unusual sounds. He presents the preposterous argument that recent power blackouts were caused by spacecraft from other worlds.

By far the most reasonable book is that of Jacques Vallee. He believes in the possibility of visits and is critical of the way the Air Force has handled the matter. However, he puts the saucer cultists in their place and is even critical of the most sober organization of believers dealing with the question: NICAP, or the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena.

He argues, *(Continued on Page 28)*

MR. SULLIVAN is science editor of The Times and author of "We Are Not Alone."

THREE SATELLITES TERMED UNKNOWN

Report by U.S. Lists Objects Sighted in May and June

By EVERT CLARK

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31—Three unidentified satellites are in orbit about the earth.

They were discovered last May and June by tracking radar, according to official United States sources. But they have not been identified "with any launching or country of origin," according to the official catalog, Satellite Situation Report.

It is the first time the report has listed "unknowns" among the many satellites, rocket bodies and bits of space debris continuously tracked by the United States.

The objects may be rocks—that is, natural meteoroids—or debris from man-made rockets or satellites. They may have been in space since 1958 without being discovered.

The orbits of the three objects indicate that if they are man-made they probably are of American or French origin. Their orbits are not inclined to the Equator at any of the launching angles usually used by the Soviet Union.

Since the objects are not considered to constitute any danger, military officials argued against listing them in the satellite report until they could be identified.

They feared that "flying saucer" enthusiasts would seize upon the term "unknown" and cite the objects as evidence that the earth had visitors from other worlds.

Their objections were overcome and the three "unknowns" finally were listed in the Sept. 30 and Oct. 15 issues of the report, which is circulated about two weeks after the date it bears.

Origin of Data Report

The report is published by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Goddard Space Flight Center, situated at nearby Greenbelt, Md. But most of the information it contains is furnished by the North American Air Defense Command, which is responsible for the detection, tracking and cataloging of all objects in space near the earth.

The command keeps elaborate, computerized records on the satellites of all nations from launching, if possible, until they decay—that is, fall to earth or burn up from the heat of fric-

early to tell whether Russia had reverted to a policy of secrecy on unsuccessful launchings that prevailed before 1963.

The United States also practices partial secrecy on most military launchings. The Satellite Situation Report also omits any reference to size and weight of orbiting objects, even if they are familiar civilian satellites such as the Gemini

March of Dimes Gets A National Chairman

Herbert L. Barnet

Basil O'Connor, president of the National Foundation, announced yesterday the appointment of Herbert L. Barnet of New York City as the national chairman of the March of Dimes, the fund-raising arm of the organization.

The foundation, which was founded in 1938 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, was formerly called the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. It has had area, regional, state and county campaign chairmen, but Mr. Barnet is its first national chairman.

The foundation is concerned with research, treatment and education in connection with birth defects.

Mr. Barnet is the board chairman and a former president of the Pepsi-Cola Company. He was graduated from Syracuse University and received his law degree from New York University. He formerly practiced law here.

He will serve as national chairman for one year beginning today. The national campaign is held annually in January.

COMSAT PROJECT MISFIRES IN ORBIT

New Pacific Satellite Effort Planned for November

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31 (AP)—An attempt to establish commercial communications via satellite over a vast Pacific Ocean area has failed.

The satellite, called "Lani Bird," did not achieve the desired orbit. A new attempt with another satellite is scheduled to be made in November.

The Communications Satellite Corporation said the "Lani Bird" was in a cigar-shaped orbit, ranging from 1,840 miles above the earth to about 23,000 miles.

A motor aboard the satellite was fired yesterday in an attempt to put the satellite into a circular, synchronous orbit over the equator at the International Dateline, 22,300 miles above the Gilbert Islands.

A successful maneuver would have caused the satellite to hover over a single spot on the earth, and it would have become a relay station for television and other forms of communication.

But the motor failed to produce the desired effect, Comsat said today.

The communications system in the satellite is functioning, but it is of use only in the comparatively short periods when the satellite is within range of earth stations. It is merely a kind of "scientific toy," officials said. They hope for better luck next time, after an attempt to find out what went wrong.

The satellite was launched Wednesday from Cape Kennedy, Fla.

A much smaller communications satellite, the "Early Bird," is functioning over the Atlantic.

U.S. Ambassador Sees Sato

TOKYO, Oct. 31 (AP) — United States Ambassador to Japan, U. Alexis Johnson, informed Premier Eisaku Sato today that President Johnson hoped to visit Japan at an "appropriate time," informed sources reported. They said the Ambassador conveyed the President's wishes on his first courtesy call on the Premier.

Japan Launches Rocket Designed for Satellites

UCHINOURA, Japan, Oct. 31 (AP)—The first MU rocket, designed to orbit Japan's first scientific satellite by 1968, was launched here today.

Officials of the Tokyo University space research team that conducted the test said that the launching was a "success." They said the four-stage, solid-fuel missile had been fired at a 69 degree angle into the Pacific Ocean. The flight lasted 3 minutes 20 seconds.

Japan's first attempt to orbit an artificial satellite with a smaller rocket ended in failure Sept. 26.

MYSTERIOUS 'LIGHT' IDENTIFIED AS STAR

Special to The New York Times

WESTHAMPTON BEACH, L. I., Oct. 31—The Suffolk County Air Force Base here announced tonight that a bright multicolored light "far brighter than any star," observed by five Suffolk County policemen 10 days ago, was actually a star.

Early on the morning of Oct. 21, the five police officers said they had seen the bright light in the southern sky over Patchogue, L. I.

An Air Force spokesman said the light, photographed and published in The New York Daily News, "has been positively identified as the Star Sirius."

The spokesman said initial investigations of 41 unidentifed flying objects reports during the month of October had been made.

"The investigators have concluded 21 of the sightings were stars, another seven were satellites, and seven were aircraft," he stated.

Preliminary investigations have not as yet been completed on the other sightings, reported in western Suffolk County Saturday night, it was added.

One of those sightings was reported to the Air Force last night by Leonard Victor, a reporter and photographer for the The Long Island Daily Press. Five photograhps of the sightings taken Saturday night by Mr. Victor appeared in today's editions of The Press.

host turned to Dr. Edward Uhler Condon, then head of the National Bureau of Standards, and asked him what he knew about unidentified flying objects. "Dr. Condon," he pleaded, "tell us all about it." Despite the guest's assurances that he had no special knowledge of the subject, the host, Dr. Condon says, never abandoned the suspicion that he had been frustrated by national secrecy.

Man in the News

As it turns out, the question had been asked 19 years too soon, the 64-year-old Dr. Condon having been officially named yesterday to head a 15-month independent study of unidentified flying objects for the Air Force.

The chunky Dr. Condon sounds scientifically neutral on the subject. Asked what his attitude was toward the alleged sightings that have been called everything from outer-space craft to swamp gas, he replied:

"I guess I'm an agnostic. I simply don't know."

Remaining neutral, however, has not been a typical Condon characteristic, at least outside the laboratory.

"I raise a little hell when I run things," he concedes.

Then with a twinkle in his eye he says:

"That's why we're going to have a little fun when we get into flying saucers."

Warm and outgoing, Dr. Condon is a theoretical physicist with restless energy and a penchant for speaking out on vital national issues, one of which swirled about himself.

In 1958, he accused Government officials of repressing facts on hydrogen bomb radioactive poisons. He scored keeping secret techniques of making "clean" H-bombs, saying "this would have the effect that any H-bombs that might be used against us would, by our policy, have to be full of radioactive poisons."

Touching on an issue that had dogged him for years, Dr. Condon denounced the Eisenhower Administration in 1957 for "callous indifference toward what others were doing to attack and discredit" scientists.

Dr. Condon, now a professor of physics at the University of Colorado, was embroiled in a controversy in 1948 with the House Un-American Activities Committee. The committee did not charge personal disloyalty, but disignated the scientist as "one of the weakest links in our atomic security." The charge was based on his supposed acquaintance with alleged Soviet spies.

In 1952, a year after re-

Associated Press

"I raise a little hell when I run things."

signing from the Bureau of Standards to head research for Corning Glass Works, Dr. Condon appeared before the committee. He denied the charges, observing that he had been cleared for secret work by three Government agencies.

In 1954, however, the issue erupted again when the Navy issued him a new clearance. Dr. Condon made this public and two days later the Navy suspended the clearance for further review. Whereupon Dr. Condon withdrew his application for the clearance and resigned from Corning.

"I am now unwilling," he said, "to continue a potentially indefinite series of reviews and re-reviews."

The scientist says his clearance was re-established about a year ago.

Dr. Condon, the son of a railroad civil engineer, was born on March 2, 1902, in Alamogordo, N.M. He studied physics at the University of California, where he received a Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1926. He has specialized in spectroscopy, nuclear physics and microwave radio phenomena.

In his 10-room house near the University of Colorado, he has a private physics library of 3,000 volumes. Reading is his only hobby.

He is married to the former Emilie Honzik. They have two sons, both physicists with Ph.D. degrees, and a daughter.

Dr. Condon is president of the Colorado Scientific Development Commission and a former president of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is running as a Democrat for regent at the University of Colorado.

Science Academy to Review U. of Colorado Results

By WALTER SULLIVAN

Dr. Edward U. Condon of the University of Colorado, head of the new Air Force-sponsored program for checking flying saucer reports, announced yesterday the appointment of three top aides and discussed how he proposed to go about his assignment.

Asked at a news conference if he believed in flying saucers, he replied that he was an "agnostic" on the subject and that he hoped he had an open mind about it. In reply to a question on the possible origin of such objects in other worlds, he said he agreed with most scientists that this was "improbable" but not impossible.

Dr. Condon has recruited Dr. Franklin E. Roach, a leading authority on airglow; Dr. Stuart W. Cook, head of the University of Colorado psychiatry department, and Dr. Robert J. Low, an assistant dean of the university's graduate school, as project coordinator.

The university has signed a $313,000 contract with the Air Force for a 15-month study of flying saucers. The contract may then be renewed. It is designed to blunt charges that the Govnerment has ignored unidentified flying objects or that it has concealed what it knows on the subject.

In announcing the new program in Washington, the Air Force said that other institutions besides the University of Colorado might be asked to help in the studies. It said that as many as 100 specialists might be consulted.

Furthermore, the Air Force said, to avoid any suspicion of a "whitewash" the National Academy of Sciences has agreed to review the results of the study. This review, it said, "will provide a further independent check on the scientific validity of the method of investigation."

At the news conference in the Commodore Hotel, Dr. Condon said that the Air Force had pledged to tell the university investigators all it knew on the subject. However, where this knowledge involves the capabilities of military radar systems or aircraft, the university will be asked not to make the information public.

Dr. Condon estimated that 1 per cent of flying saucer episodes involved classified military equipment.

Dr. Roach directed American airglow observations during

though it accounts for a large portion of night-time illumination on the ground. It shows up brightly to astronauts orbiting the night side of the earth.

Dr. Condon said that Boulder, Colo., was an ideal seat for U. F. O. investigations. It is the home of a major astronomical center, the High Altitude Observatory. It is also the seat of the nation's chief research center on upper air physics and radio propagation. This center, to which Dr. Roach is attached, was formerly under the National Bureau of Standards but is now part of the Environmental Sciences Service Administration.

The National Center for Atmospheric Research is also in Boulder. These agencies provide a reservoir of specialists from which investigation teams can be drawn.

In explaining his proposed operating procedures, Dr. Condon cited a report, attributed to an Antarctic station, that its magnetometer behaved peculiarly as an "object" flew past.

In such a case, he said, an attempt will be made to obtain and study the magnetometer records. These highly sensitive instruments are used to monitor magnetic storms and other changes in the earth's magnetism.

Likewise, Dr. Condon said, in cases where witnesses report that the ignition systems of their cars fail when a U. F. O. comes near, automotive engineers will be sent to examine the cars.

Dr. Condon asked citizens and local officials to continue to make reports to the Air Force investigation center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. Such reports can also be made to any nearby Air Force base. The group at Boulder will not deal directly with the public, although it is willing to receive reports from those unwilling to channel them through the Air Force.

Hemisfair Bill Is Passed

WASHINGTON, Oct. 7 (AP)—Congressional action was completed today on a bill authorizing Federal participation in Hemisfair, an international exposition to be held in San Antonio, Tex., in 1968. The House accepted Senate changes that reduced from $10-million to $7.5-million the amount of Federal funds authorized to be appropriated for a building and exhibit.

launching angles usually used by the Soviet Union.

Since the objects are not considered to constitute any danger, military officials argued against listing them in the satellite report until they could be identified.

They feared that "flying saucer" enthusiasts would seize upon the term "unknown" and cite the objects as evidence that the earth had visitors from other worlds.

Their objections were overcome and the three "unknowns" finally were listed in the Sept. 30 and Oct. 15 issues of the report, which is circulated about two weeks after the date it bears.

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The command keeps elaborate, computerized records on the satellites of all nations from launching, if possible, until they decay—that is, fall to earth or burn up from the heat of friction as they plunge through the earth's atmosphere.

The command's computers and human analysts receive their data from more than 100 tracking radar stations scattered around the globe. Some of the stations watch the Soviet Union from neighboring countries. Others guard the approaches to the United States.

Space tracking devices also include a "fence" stretching across the southern United States. It sends radio signals into the air constantly and any object crossing the fence disturbs the signals.

Information also is fed to the command by volunteers of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory's "moon-watch" teams, by airline pilots and others.

The command tries to predict places and times for the reentry of space debris but cannot yet do so with precision. As an example of the rate at which man-made objects re-enter the atmosphere, 23 were catalogued in the 42 days from Sept. 4 to October 16.

The report also discloses that the Soviet Union launched an object into space on Sept. 17 that separated into at least 51 pieces—apparently a spectacular failure caused by an explosion.

The Soviets did not announce the launching. Official United States sources said this was the first time since January, 1963, that the Russians had failed to make some kind of statement about a launching, even when it was a partial or total failure.

These sources said it was too early to tell whether Russia had reverted to a policy of secrecy on unsuccessful launchings that prevailed before 1963.

The United States also practices partial secrecy on most military launchings. The Satellite Situation Report also omits any reference to size and weight of orbiting objects, even if they are familiar civilian satellites such as the Gemini manned spacecraft.

Thus it is impossible to tell from the information available whether the three unknown objects are large, or as small as some of the tinier bits and pieces that also show up on tracking radar from time to time. The North American Air Defense Command contends it has tracked objects as small as one foot in length.

Two of the unknowns are in orbit inclined at 85 degrees to the Equator — an inclination close to those sometimes used for both secret and unclassified military launchings at the western test range at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

The other is in an orbit inclined at 35 degrees to the Equator—a launching angle sometimes used from Cape Kennedy, Fla. France also has launched satellites at that angle.

One of the two in an 85-degree orbit swings from a low point of 385 miles above earth to 3,944 miles away. The other dips to 459 miles and shines out to 3,802 miles.

Dirksen's Operation a Success

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31 (UPI) —Everett M. Dirksen, the Senate Republican Leader, underwent successful surgery today for the removal of metal pins and a silver plate used in his recovery from a broken hip this year. Surgeons at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center said the postoperative condition of the Senator from Illinois was good. Senator Dirksen is 70 years old.

The foundation, which was founded in 1938 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, was formerly called the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. It has had area, regional, state and county campaign chairmen, but Mr. Barnet is its first national chairman.

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SPACE 'VISITORS' TOPIC AT PARLEY

[illegible]ying Saucer Buffs Seeking Closer Contact With 'Them'

By PETER BART
Special to The New York Times

LOS AN[illegible] [illegible]—The "urgent pro[illegible] of improving communications with the thousands of visitors from outer space who supposedly a[illegible] now circling the earth was afforded solemn deliberation here this weekend at a special convention of flying saucer buffs.

Among the nearly 300 delegates was a self-professed "interplanetary traveler" named Standing Horse, an English woman who regularly issues mimeographed reports on her conversations with space travelers, a man who offered to book "group sightings" of flying saucers and a Presidential candidate campaigning on the flying saucer ticket.

The space buffs, who assembled in a cavernous establishment called The Blarney Castle, weren't much impressed with this week's Soviet moon shot [illegible] were both [illegible] [illegible] by what they [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] saucers.

One delegate, Marianne Francis, warned that the sightings could mark the beginning of some "ominous changes" for the earth's population. But the convention chairman [illegible] stressed [illegible] said the [illegible]planetary visitors" would [illegible] out to be "angelic creatures whose mission is to help mankind."

The delegates were generally well groomed, articulate men and women who could have blended into a P.T.A. meeting.

Many were heads of organizations from around the country whose members regularly spotted and photographed "unidentified flying objects" and claimed to maintain telepathic communication with space travelers.

Nearly all agreed that what they called the "Flying Saucer Movement" was experiencing sharp expansion. Two delegates announced they were negotiating to purchase radio stations to [illegible] [illegible] their theories.

Dr. [illegible] [illegible]nges, who heads a [illegible] [illegible] the International [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] which he says has half a million members, announced that he would build a $2-million complex in Palm Springs, Calif., that would embrace a flying saucer convention and research center and a retirement community.

Several flying saucer magazines and hundreds of books were on sale at the convention.

"These people are contactee-oriented," explained Gabriel Green, a well-spoken serious young man who served as president of the Amalgamated Flying Saucer Clubs of America. "They accept spacecraft as a fact of life. Their interest is in contacting spacemen directly or through telepathy."

'SAUCER' ZEALOTS GROW IN NUMBER

Clubs Expand as 'Sightings' Multiply Across U.S.

By PETER BART
Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 13—The stooped old man dressed in animal skins slowly made his way from delegate to delegate in the large auditorium.

"I'm an observer from Alpha Centauri," he explained calmly. "It's been a very informative meeting."

The delegates attending the "Flying Saucer" convention here recently did not show any special surprise.

"After all," said one neatly dressed matron, "in this day and age anything is possible."

This "anything is possible" attitude seems to be gaining steadily wider acceptance these days among the expanding numbers of people who are taking an interest in U.F.O.'s (unidentified flying objects).

Upsurge of Interest

There has been a sharp upsurge of interest in U.F.O.'s around the nation. Membership in U.F.O. clubs is soaring and, predictably, the number of sightings of "saucers" seems to be growing apace.

In Southern California, a hotbed of activity in the field, the flying saucer zealots regularly appear on television and are heard on radio. Across the nation the more scientifically oriented organizations have clashed sharply with the more fanciful groups that claim to maintain day-to-day contact with extraterrestrial visitors.

Coincidentally, a team of scientists at the University of Colorado began work this week on a $300,000 Government-financed investigation into the growing number of sightings around the nation.

Outside Investigators

The study marks the first time that the Government has encouraged outside investigators to look into the controversial question, and officials agree that it has come at a propitious time in view of the more numerous sightings.

Predictably, the more extreme groups assert that this study proves that the Government really believes in extraterrestrial visitors after all. The conservative U.F.O. groups meanwhile hope that the University of Colorado study will take some

the "kooks."

"The lunatic fringe is an embarrassment to us," said Richard Hall, assistant director of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, a private organization whose membership has doubled to more than 11,000 in the last year alone.

Rise in Number of Sightings

Mr. Hall attributes this increase in membership to a rise in the number of sightings in the last few months.

"There have been nearly 30 fairly well-documented sightings in the past six months alone," he said.

Mr. Hall's organization takes the position that there have been enough confirmed sightings to justify an intensive scientific scrutiny of U.F.O.'s, but it declines to take a position on the nature of the "saucers."

In contrast to this group is the Amalgamated Flying Saucer Club of America in Los Angeles, whose president, Gabriel Green, insists that he can prove that "we have been visited regularly by extraterrestrials."

Many of the 3,700 members of this organization say they have seen saucers land, and some say they've traveled in spacecraft, according to Mr. Green, a lean, intense young man who has twice run for President on the "Flying Saucer ticket."

A Link to Religion

Most of the leading spokesmen in Southern California who have appeared on television have tried to link the U.F.O.'s to religious phenomena.

Dr. Frank E. Stranges, chairman of the National Investigations Committee on U.F.O.'s, preaches a form of space-age evangelism through an organization called the International Evangelical Crusade. To Dr. Stranges, the saucers are proof of "Gods' concern about the state of life on this planet."

A roughly similar view is voiced by Wesley Bateman, who heads an organization called MIND (Mental Investigations of New Dimensions). Mr. Bateman believes man's consciousness on earth is clouded by geological and atmospheric disorders but that a superior form of mankind with heightened consciousness exists on hundreds of other planets.

The saucers, he says, are in fact "doing God's work" in keeping an eye on man to prevent him from destroying the universe.

Mr. Bateman and a team of assistants operate from a large, somber-looking mansion in Hollywood, which is equipped with a small television studio to help "spread the message."

Most of these spokesmen regularly attend Southern California's frequent saucer conventions, most of which are rather uninhibited.

Hundreds of Letters

At one recent convention in Hollywood, a long-haired man offered to take visitors on "group U.F.O. sightings." A rather ethereal-looking woman warned the convention that a wave of earthquakes would soon destroy much of mankind.

To the more serious-minded student of U.F.O.'s, this sort of activity causes indignation.

"There are an awful lot of nuts around; it's a very mixed-up subject," said Dr. Edward U. Condon, a physicist who serves as scientific director of the University of Colorado's research proect.

Since the project was announced Oct. 7, Dr. Condon said, he has received hundreds of letters from "people telling me what they've seen."

He says he also has received more than 40 letters from "top academic people" who agree on the need for such an investigation and who have declared their support for his work.

Dr. Condon, whose specialty is atomic physics, said he entered his study with no preconceived attitudes.

"I have never thought much about U.F.O.'s," he said.

He plans to have a staff of about 10 full-time and 75 part-time aides, who will work for 15 months. The staff will include psychologists, who will attempt to analyze some of the possible emotional aberrations involved in the sightings.

Reports Multiply Rapidly

On one issue there seems to be wide agreement — reports of sightings continue to increase rapidly. Maj. Hector Quintanella, director of the Air Force's Project Bluebook, which keeps track of U.F.O. sightings, believes this increase stems from the upsurge in magazine stories and television shows devoted to the topic. The total sightings this year will vastly exceed the 886 reports received in 1965, he said.

Gabriel Green, predictably, had another explanation.

"They're watching us more and more carefully," he said alluding to the people from outer space.

"Already they are becoming bolder, leaving imprints and other evidence of their landings on earth. When they are convinced that we can accept their reality they will formally make themselves known, and that will be fairly soon."

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mediate comment.

The A.C.L.U. letter said the organization considered disclosure of membership so "pernicious an attack on academic freedom" that it pledged the legal assistance to any institution that will refuse the committee's requests.

The letter charged that authorities at the University of Michigan delivered lists containing 65 names drawn from three organizations — an affiliate of Students for a Democratic Society, a Committee to Aid the Vietnamese and a local chapter of the W.E.B. DuBois Club.

Individuals Not Notified

"These lists were sent without first advising those named so that they, at least, might have had the opportunity to seek legally to enjoin the university from complying," the letter said.

In the case of the University of California, it added, the committee's transcript showed that at least one student was interrogated about the fact that his

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1966.

An Outspoken Scientist

Edward Uhler Condon

AT a cocktail party in Washington in 1947, the host turned to Dr. Edward Uhler Condon, then head of the National Bureau of Standards, and asked him what he knew about unidentified flying objects. "Dr. Condon," he pleaded, "tell us all about it." Despite the guest's assurances that he had no special knowledge of the subject, the host, Dr. Condon says, never abandoned the suspicion that he had been frustrated by national secrecy.

Man in the News

As it turns out, the question had been asked 19 years too soon, the 64-year-old Dr. Condon having been officially named yesterday to head a 15-month independent study of unidentified flying objects for the Air Force.

The chunky Dr. Condon sounds scientifically neutral on the subject. Asked what his attitude was toward the alleged sightings that have been called everything from outer-space craft to swamp gas, he replied:

"I guess I'm an agnostic. I simply don't know."

Remaining neutral, however, has not been a typical Condon characteristic, at least outside the laboratory.

"I raise a little hell when I run things," he concedes.

Then with a twinkle in his eye he says:

"That's why we're going to have a little fun when we get into flying saucers."

Warm and outgoing, Dr. Condon is a theoretical physicist with restless energy and a penchant for speaking out on vital national issues, one of which swirled about himself.

In 1958, he accused Government officials of repressing facts on hydrogen bomb radioactive poisons. He scored keeping secret techniques of making "clean" H-bombs, saying "this would have the effect that any H-bombs that might be used against us would, by our policy, have to be full of radioactive poisons."

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In his 10-room house near the University of Colorado, he has a private physics library of 3,000 volumes. Reading is his only hobby.

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Dr. Condon is president of the Colorado Scientific Development Commission and a former president of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of

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The university has signed a $313,000 contract with the Air Force for a 15-month study of flying saucers. The contract may then be renewed. It is designed to blunt charges that the Govnerment has ignored unidentified flying objects or that it has concealed what it knows on the subject.

In announcing the new program in Washington, the Air Force said that other institutions besides the University of Colorado might be asked to help in the studies. It said that as many as 100 specialists might be consulted.

Furthermore, the Air Force said, to avoid any suspicion of a "whitewash" the National Academy of Sciences has agreed to review the results of the study. This review, it said, "will provide a further independent check on the scientific validity of the method of investigation."

At the news conference in the Commodore Hotel, Dr. Condon said that the Air Force had pledged to tell the university investigators all it knew on the subject. However, where this knowledge involves the capabilities of military radar systems or aircraft, the university will be asked not to make the information public.

Dr. Condon estimated that 1 per cent of flying saucer episodes involved classified military equipment.

Dr. Roach directed American airglow observations during the International Geophysical Year of 1957 to 1958. Airglow is an upper air phenomenon that in some cases is closely related to the periodic aurora or Northern lights. However, it occurs, to some extent, continuously.

It is normally invisible, although it accounts for a large portion of night-time illumination on the ground. It shows up brightly to astronauts orbiting the night side of the earth.

Dr. Condon said that Boulder, Colo., was an ideal seat for U. F. O. investigations. It is the home of a major astronomical center, the High Altitude Observatory. It is also the seat of the nation's chief research center on upper air physics and radio propagation. This center, to which Dr. Roach is attached, was formerly under the National Bureau of Standards but is now part of the Environmental Sciences Service Administration.

The National Center for Atmospheric Research is also in Boulder. These agencies provide a reservoir of specialists from which investigation teams can be drawn.

In explaining his proposed operating procedures, Dr. Condon cited a report, attributed to an Antarctic station, that its magnetometer behaved peculiarly as an "object" flew past.

In such a case, he said, an attempt will be made to obtain and study the magnetometer records. These highly sensitive instruments are used to monitor magnetic storms and other changes in the earth's magnetism.

Likewise, Dr. Condon said, in cases where witnesses report that the ignition systems of their cars fail when a U. F. O. comes near, automotive engineers will be sent to examine the cars.

Dr. Condon asked citizens and local officials to continue to make reports to the Air Force investigation center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. Such reports can also be made to any nearby Air Force base. The group at Boulder will not deal directly with the public, although it is willing to receive reports from those unwilling to channel them through the Air Force.

Hemisfair Bill Is Passed

WASHINGTON, Oct. 7 (AP)—Congressional action was completed today on a bill authorizing Federal participation in Hemisfair, an international exposition to be held in San Antonio, Tex., in 1968. The House accepted Senate changes that reduced from $10-million to $7.5-million the amount of Federal funds authorized to be appropriated for a building and exhibit.

Sotto: i vigili del fuoco spengono due incendi misteriosi scoppiati nelle case di Canneto di Caronia

E.T. PARLA SICILIANO

Per due anni esperti e scienziati hanno studiato i misteriosi fuochi spontanei scoppiati nelle case del paesino di Caronia. E hanno redatto un rapporto riservato: armi segrete oppure marziani

DI GIUSEPPE LO BIANCO E PIERO MESSINA

Scorrendo le pagine del documento, sembra quasi di leggere la trama di un episodio inedito della serie di "X Files". La missione, questa volta, si svolge nel basso Tirreno. Il contenuto del dossier è estremamente serio: è localizzata qui, probabilmente attorno alle isole Eolie, la misteriosa «emissione elettromagnetica focalizzata e concentrata», della durata di pochi nanosecondi che ha generato i fuochi di Caronia. Ecco finalmente il principale sospettato per i fenomeni di autocombustione nelle case di decine di siciliani, registrati dal gennaio del 2004, che hanno condotto nell'isola scienziati di tutto il mondo a caccia della soluzione del "giallo dei fuochi spontanei". Che, dopo tre anni di studi e rilievi tecnologici non ha più segreti, ma due inquietanti ipotesi stampate nero su bianco nel quarto rapporto riservato consegnato un mese fa dal gruppo di studio interistituzionale creato dalla presidenza del Consiglio nel 2005.

Un fascicolo riservato, consegnato a Palazzo Chigi al vertice della Protezione civile: la causa sono «test militari segreti o esperimenti alieni». Le formule utilizzate sono quelle di un testo da guerra dei mondi: «Tecnologie militari evolute anche di origine non terrestre potrebbero esporre in futuro intere popolazioni a conseguenze indesiderate. Gli incidenti di Canneto di Caronia potrebbero essere stati tentativi di ingaggio militare tra forze non convenzionali oppure un test non aggressivo mirato allo studio dei comportamenti e delle azioni in un indeterminato campione territoriale scarsamente antropizzato». Fantascienza?

Per spiegare le ragioni di più di 180 roghi spontanei con elettrodomestici staccati dalla rete elettrica improvvisamente in fiamme, navigatori satellitari squagliati e cellulari impazziti, padre Gabriele Amorth, nel 2005, scomodò persino il diavolo, dopo che gli scienziati del Cnr, dell'Istituto nazionale di geofisica e di labo- ▸

Foto: Olycom, F. Cufari - Olycom, O. Scardino - Olycom

E a Sigonella volano gli Ufo americani

Gli Ufo in Sicilia? Ci sono già, senza scherzi, e li nascondono gli americani. Ufo è l'acronimo di "Uhf follow on" e di alieno ha ben poco, visto che nasconde una speciale tecnologia militare di controllo satellitare in dotazione alla base Usa di Sigonella. Tra poco andrà in pensione e verrà sostituito dal più moderno Muos, Mobile user objective system. Il governo americano prevede di installare il terminale terrestre Muos a Sigonella, ma anche presso il centro radar di Niscemi. Questo sistema rivoluzionerà le comunicazioni militari nel futuro: sarà una sorta di cellulare a banda larga, capace di garantire ovunque la trasmissione di dati e le conversazioni in voce. Un Internet senza bisogno di fili, che rende il mondo una gigantesca rete e permette alle armate di interagire virtualmente in tempo reale. Il problema è che le stazioni terrestri destinate a gestire Muos subiscono un carico pesante di emissioni elettromagnetiche.
I primi test Radhaz, ossia sul rischio da emissioni, condotti nell'area della base americana alle porte di Catania, hanno dato risultati allarmanti. Ma la questione è top secret. E il piano va avanti.

Navi in fiamme. Elicotteri in avaria. C'è un triangolo delle Bermude anche davanti alle coste dell'isola?

ratori di mezza Europa avevano alzato bandiera bianca. Il governo Berlusconi ci volle vedere chiaro e creò una task force con tecnici di carabinieri, aeronautica e Marina militare, insieme agli esperti della Protezione civile e a un ricercatore della Nasa ingaggiato negli Usa. Risultato: l'estensione del campo di indagine a 309 strani episodi verificati lungo l'asse tirrenico, ma anche nel canale di Sicilia, per i quali, dopo tre anni, sono state escluse tutte le possibili cause naturali.
Secondo gli esperti coordinati da Francesco Mantegna Venerando, il coordinatore regionale del comitato della Protezione civile siciliana, Canneto di Caronia è stata colpita da fenomeni elettromagnetici di origine artificiale, capaci di generare una grande potenza concentrata. Fasci di microonde a "ultra high frequency" compresi nella banda tra 300 megahertz e alcuni gigahertz. Per produrre una simile quantità di energia una macchina dovrebbe raggiungere una potenza tra i 12 e i 15 gigawatt. Dov'è posizionata la sorgente, però, non si sa. Una rete composta da decine di sensori, da due anni, dà la caccia all'impulso madre proveniente dal mare, un compito quasi impossibile dal momento che l'emissione dura lo spazio di qualche nanosecondo. E che la rete di monitoraggio si potrebbe spegnere presto: la direzione regionale della Protezione civile (ed è lo stesso Venerando a sottolinearlo) non ha ancora potuto rinnovare i contratti di manutenzione alle ditte incaricate di tenerli in efficienza. C'è un triangolo delle Bermude a largo dell'isola? Difficile crederlo. Ma nel dossier sono finiti una serie di episodi senza alcuna spiegazione scientifica, accaduti negli ultimi anni nell'area del basso Tirreno. A partire dalla strana e gigantesca impronta, di forma rettangolare, lunga 40 metri e larga 15, ritrovata a pochi chilometri da Caronia, in un campo. Spiega Venerando: «Si erano bruciati a intervalli regolari solo i cespugli di ampelodelmos, una pianta a foglia larga che può aver fatto da recettore di onde. Le bruciature delle radici erano uguali a quelle trovate sui fili elettrici delle abitazioni, con i segni delle fiamme presenti in una sequenza dettata dai multipli del 4».
Il verdetto dei tecnici: segni compatibili con le emissioni di onde elettromagnetiche. Così come misteriosa è rimasta la causa che ha improvvisamente acceso il motore di un tir parcheggiato nel garage della motonave Toscana in navigazione da Palermo a Cagliari la notte tra il 18 e il 19 dicembre del 2005: ne è scaturito un incendio a bordo, il rientro della nave in Sicilia e numerose concitate telefonate tra la guardia costiera di Palermo e l'ufficio della Protezione civile che si occupa a tempo pieno dei misteri. E nell'X File siciliano un posto di rilievo è dedicato alle foto impressionanti degli squarci su tre delle quattro pale dell'elicottero Sikorsky della Protezione civile in volo sul basso Tirreno, costretto a un atterraggio di emergenza senza avere apparentemente urtato contro nulla. Riferisce Venerando: «Nella casistica degli incidenti agli elicotteri non è mai successo un caso simile».
Potevano mancare gli Ufo? Eccoli infatti. Nel dossier gli avvistamenti siciliani sono numerosi, con le relative fotografie. Alcuni scatti sono talmente precisi che gli studiosi del gruppo interistituzionale hanno sviluppato, e allegato al dossier consegnato a settembre di quest'anno, dei grafici in rendering con la descrizione degli oggetti volanti. Così come le dichiarazioni degli abitanti di Caronia che giurano, da due anni, di ricevere la visita non gradita di oggetti volanti luminescenti ai quali in molti addebitano le fiamme comparse improvvisamente tra tende e materassi. Gli esperti costretti a fare la classifica dei misteri non si sbilanciano. Ma nel copione di X Files gli Ufo sono al secondo posto: seguono l'ipotesi della tecnologia militare segreta nella classifica delle potenziali sorgenti dell'onda che brucia. E pensare che proprio in Sicilia un tal Archimede si inventò gli specchi ustori. Che l'enigma sia ancora più antico? ■

Una veduta di Canneto di Caronia, Messina e, sopra, un appartamento bruciato

Foto: F. Lannino - Studio Camera, Sintesi